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Tough spending battle in prospect

Clarke freezes public sector pay bill again

By JILL SHERMAN AND PHILIP WEBSTER

KENNETH CLARKE is to impose a freeze on the public sector pay bill for the fourth year running as he tries to cut up to £5 billion from existing spending plans.

Five million public service workers face the prospect of pay increases having to be found from savings in their department budgets as the Government refuses again to increase their £80 billion pay bill.

Preparing for what is expected to be the toughest pre-election spending round on record, the Chancellor will tell the Cabinet today that he hopes to cut the £268 billion target for public spending next year by between £3 billion and £5 billion to reduce Government borrowing and leave some scope for modest tax cuts.

Mr Clarke will also warn ministers that he expects most Whitehall departments to reduce their running costs by 2-3 percentage points. He will argue that this should be affordable through lower than expected inflation.

The Chancellor spent much of yesterday fending off claims that the Tories had a secret agenda to privatise the welfare state and adopt American Republican-style ideas to reduce the size of government.

He claimed that a Treasury strategy document disclosed exclusively in *The Times* yesterday had been written "by kids" and did not represent Government policy.

But he found himself under fire from rightwing Conservatives who felt he had too

cavalierly dismissed some of the ideas put forward by officials to Sir Terry Burns, the Treasury permanent secretary. John Redwood says in an article in *The Times* today: "I do not agree with all their conclusions but I do think we need to take action to curb the Government's appetite for our money."

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said it showed the "huge divide" between the parties and would be a central issue at the election.

But Mr Clarke will turn today from the debate about

Thank heaven for kids having fun at the Treasury?

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future spending to immediate demands on the public purse. His move to impose a further freeze on the public sector pay bill — allowing pay increases only if they can be found from efficiency savings — will infuriate lower-paid workers following the decision by MPs to award themselves a 2½ per cent pay rise.

The decision risks provoking a winter of industrial disputes in the run-up to a general election.

In a Commons debate yesterday largely eclipsed by the row over the Treasury document, Mr Clarke signalled

another tough round of negotiations to get borrowing back on course. He said he had conducted three of the toughest spending rounds of any modern Chancellor, and suggested that the trend would continue.

But the hard line signals Mr Clarke's determination to keep spending under control and paves the way for some tax cuts in the autumn. It will also delight rightwingers who have been pressing him to take a more robust line on spending as he appeared to talk down the chances of tax cuts.

The Cabinet is privately expected to agree a provisional figure for the spending control total for 1996/97 at today's meeting.

But ministers are likely to announce a similar formula to last year, that the current "ceiling" of £268 billion will remain unchanged, with the unstated aim of reaching a lower settlement. Last year the ceiling was cut by more than £3 billion when the figures were announced in the November budget.

William Waldegrave, the chief secretary to the Treasury, will also report to the Cabinet on the changes since last year's forecasts, pointing out the lower than expected inflation levels. But he will argue that this year's settlement will be tighter than expected due to the extra £1 billion which has to be spent on eradicating BSE next year. Key pressure points during this year's public spending round are defence, social security, education and transport.



Unmasked: Peter Pans of the Treasury

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE'S dismissive description of the authors of the leaked Treasury report as "some kids in the office" could not have been further from the truth.

Far from being mere office "juniors", as the Chancellor of the Exchequer preferred people to believe, the authors of strategy paper have more combined experience at the Treasury than the Chancellor's 56 years on earth.

The most senior member of the quartet in age is in her early 40s. At least one of the "kids" has been tipped to

reach the upper echelons of the Civil Service. Which was a far cry from the official Treasury line yesterday morning.

"They are former students," said one official. Well, they were about 20 years ago. The architect of the report was Helen Goodman, 37, the deputy team leader of the Strategy Finance and Purchasing Department. Ms Goodman works on the fourth floor of the Treasury, two levels above the Chancellor. They rarely meet.

She is the only one to feature in the latest issue of the Civil Service handbook. Many colleagues predicted yesterday that Ms Goodman was des-

tined to rise further. "She is good and committed and will do well," said one colleague.

Ms Goodman, whose is paid about £40,000 a year, is a Grade 7 principal officer. She graduated in 1979 in PPE at Somerville College, Oxford, which was Margaret Thatcher's alma mater.

She has enjoyed a varied career at the Treasury, which she joined after she left university, and was seconded briefly to Eastern Europe.

The other three members of the team who worked on the 123-page document include Fabia Jones, in her late thirties, who is also a Grade 7 principal officer. Mrs Jones

an economist by training who joined the Treasury in the early 1980s, has just been signed off on maternity leave.

The third member was George Kyriacou, 31, a higher executive officer, whose salary is in the £30,000 region. Mr Kyriacou is the grade below the two women. He joined about three years ago as an administrative trainee.

The fourth member was Anna Molloy, a personnel secretary, who has been with the Treasury since the 1979 general election. She was the administrator on the project, which was completed earlier this year. "She is in her early forties and has been at the

Treasury for an eternity," said one official. "She was probably very flattered to be called a kid."

Mr Clarke, by contrast, was a relatively youthful 30 when he became an MP, and a mere 32 when he became a Government Whip. He joined the Cabinet when he was 45 which would have made him only a few years older than Mrs Molloy.

The four backroom technicians were dubbed the "Fab Four" and the "Gang of Four" by their Treasury colleagues yesterday who were reveling in the Chancellor's latest gaffe. On BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme yesterday, Mr Clarke said: "She was probably very flattered to be called a kid."

Bingham exposes legal rift

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE new Lord Chief Justice exposed a deep division at the top of the judiciary last night when he came out in favour of incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

In his first public speech since taking office a month ago as the country's most senior serving judge, Lord Bingham of Cornhill rejected the view that incorporating the convention would give judges more power.

Lord Bingham's comments, at the annual dinner for judges hosted by the Lord Mayor of the City of London last night, came a week after Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, gave a warn-

ing that to enshrine the convention would draw judges into the political arena. Lord Bingham said that the argument that those who favoured incorporating the convention were "sometimes accused of seeking to arrogate vast new areas of authority to the judges" did not hold water.

Breaches and alleged breaches of the convention were already the subject of judicial decision, not only at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg but also in the courts here, Lord Bingham said.

"Incorporation would ... give British judges the opportunity to rule before the court in Strasbourg."

The reform, which could be done by enacting a Bill of Rights so that the convention was then directly applicable in British courts, might be expected to appeal to those critical of decisions by the Strasbourg court. Lord Bingham added.

Last week Lord Mackay said that to incorporate the convention would see judges making decisions of a more political nature and with more bearing on social policy. He gave a warning that this would lead to scrutiny of the political stance of those applying to be judges as was done in America. The reform is however strongly backed by Labour.

Labour demands end to Tube strike

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JONATHAN PRYNN

LABOUR took a tougher line on the London Tube strike yesterday by calling on the rail unions to abandon today's walkout. The strike threatens to bring the capital its worst travel chaos in seven years.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Employment Secretary, with the authority of Tony Blair, said: "We are in favour of arbitration, we are in favour of that arbitration being binding, and we think it inappropriate for the dispute to continue in the light of our proposal."

Mr Blunkett's comments came as hundreds of thousands of commuters prepared

for a total one-day shutdown of the Underground as a result of the decision by the two main drivers' unions to take joint action. All of the Tube's 270 stations are expected to be closed until tomorrow morning after last-minute talks between London Transport and the Aslef and Rail, Maritime and Transport unions ended in failure.

Today's strike, estimated to cost the economy £30 million, is the first of a planned summer series of nine walkouts over working hours. Three earlier strikes involving only Aslef had little impact.

Mattress of mud saves boy in 110ft shaft fall

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BOY aged four who fell 110ft down a disused mineshaft survived with only cuts and bruises after landing in a pool of mud.

Tom Roberts was exploring a field behind his home in Holywell, Clwyd, on Tuesday evening when he tripped and fell into the 5ft-wide shaft of a lead mine. Damien Davies, a potholer, heard his cries when he went to warn another child to stay away from the shaft.

Mr Davies, 44, said: "I raced back to get my climbing equipment and lowered myself down. Tom was shouting out. When I got down there he

was standing up to his knees in mud and water with his hands against the wall, sobbing."

"There was a lot of loose material falling away so I covered him with my body and comforted him in the darkness until the Fire Brigade arrived."

The child was winched to the surface using a safety harness and taken to Glan Clwyd Hospital at Bodelwyddan suffering from head and face wounds and shock. Mr Davies was also winched out.

A spokesman for the Fire Brigade said that the mud had acted like a mattress. "He

is lucky to be alive. It was fortunate for him that there was thick mud at the bottom of the shaft and that he didn't touch the sides on the way down."

Mr Davies said he was alerted to the danger by his brother and a neighbour while having supper at his brother's house near the shaft. "My heart started racing as I realised what might have happened. The shaft has been there for nearly 400 years and has never been properly covered."

Mr Davies said he rushed to the edge of the mine and peered in, to see murky water at the bottom. "I was really alarmed, but I suddenly



Tom — rescued from the shaft by Damien Davies, right



who moved to the area recently, were at their son's bedside last night. A spokeswoman for the hospital said Tom would probably go home tomorrow.

heard a cry. I was astonished, but relieved, as it meant the little lad was alive. What I didn't know was how badly injured he was."

David and Paula Roberts,

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Beware the political straight man: he will make you his fall guy

A PARADOX about politicians is too often missed. We watch an oily Tory ducking and weaving at the dispatch box, or an evasive Labour spokesman sidling round the question, and we say, "Why won't they give straight answers? See the body language! Why does he avoid our eyes? These people are slippery."

More rarely we see an MP who looks his audience in the eye and, in language plain and manner bluff, spells out his message in terms none can mistake. And we say: "A

straight one at last! That's an MP I could vote for."

Beware, for the politician who when being slippery seems slippery, is the relatively honest one. The MP who, failing to answer a question, leaves you aware that the question has not been answered, has not misled. It is the half-fellow-well-met, call-a-spade-a-spade, I-speak-as-I-find-kind-of-fellow, often with a regional accent — the blunt one who gives us what sounds like straight-talking — who can be the most slippery of all.

It is very unlikely he has told the whole story because, in the awkward business of politics, people with real responsibility seldom can. If he has managed to sound like an uncomplicated bloke with a simple message then he is probably lying. And if he does convince, then he is trickier than the politician who fails.

And so we turn to the two heavyweight performers in yesterday's debate on the economy: Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and his Shadow, Gordon



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Brown. Mr Clarke spoke with his usual confidence and directness. Laughing off leaks from an internal Treasury document as the work of teenagers he had not even heard of, he swept criticisms aside and trampled heedlessly over his prepared text, departing to answer whatever criticism came his way and

taking every intervention willingly. He took his hecklers head-on. He never minced words and appeared careless of the effects of his language and impatient with weasel phrases: incapable of ambiguity.

"What my boffins, as I call them, have to do..." was a phrase I jotted down. "His

last league table was pretty useless," he joked. Of Mr Brown, "Now I know why Sheffield went bust!" he cried, when challenged by the economics of Clive Betts (Lab, Sheffield Attercliffe).

It was a breath of fresh air. This was surely a bruiser, but a straightforward one, plain speaking, a man of the people. One recalled the approach for which Denis Healey became famous and popular: impolitic phrases like "silly billy" and "out of their tiny Chinese minds". Clarke was the care-

less, confident speech of a man with nothing to hide. Gordon Brown was different. He had precious little to say and this embarrassed him. He became horribly bogged down in a half-hour wrangle about the significance or otherwise of the leaked document Clarke had, with a sweep of the arm, dismissed. Clarke accused him of raising a smokescreen to hide the poverty of his own proposals. Brown lowered his eyes and stumbled on. He looked and sounded uncom-

municative. It was one of his more wretched afternoons. But I asked myself whether I might not prefer a politician who, when evading, looks unhappy about it.

Kenneth Clarke holds that when few are likely to believe you there is no point in pretending. This is a doctrine shared by all the most sophisticated PR theorists. It may be that this rough-hewn Chancellor's PR is more sophisticated, not less, than the rest of his smoother-talking political generation.

Primaries to select half pupil intake

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PRIMARY schools will be given the right to select up to half their pupils under the new Education White Paper, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said yesterday.

Mrs Shephard told MPs there would be no distinction made between primary and secondary schools in the Government's plans to encourage a grammar school in every town.

A grant-maintained primary school would be able to test five-year-olds for 50 per cent of its places and a council primary could select 20 per cent, in line with the extra powers being proposed for secondary schools.

Mrs Shephard was speaking at the Commons Select Committee on Education, where she was pressed on her commitment to more grammar schools. While previously she has been sceptical of greater selection, publicly she has maintained support for John Major's vision of a grammar school in every town.

But Mrs Shephard told MPs she did not expect primary schools to make use of their new powers. "There is no distinction under the law at

the moment," she said, referring to the existing powers of grant-maintained schools to select up to 15 per cent of their pupils without seeking Government approval. None has yet done so.

"The law allows all schools, whether primary or middle, to select if that is their wish without going through statutory procedures. But I don't expect the primary sector to espouse selection," Mrs Shephard said.

When questioned whether she shared a desire for a grammar school in every town, the Education Secretary replied: "I would be very happy if that were the outcome of these proposals."

Mrs Shephard could not say when the White Paper would become law. The proposals to give schools direct control over more of their budgets would not, however, be debated "in this Parliament".

She said she did not want a return to the system of grammar and secondary modern schools, simply to encourage a greater range of schools.

"We do not intend to return to a two-tier system, that is not our policy, nor is it the policy as laid out in the White Paper."



The BBC is making viewers hang on three weeks to see how the cast of *Murder One* responds to the verdict

Courtroom drama fans put BBC in dock

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE BBC last night caved in to viewers' anger that the depiction of the 23-part thriller *Murder One* had been postponed because of the Olympic Games. The corporation announced that it would show two episodes consecutively on August 6, with the final chapter the next night.

More than 100 viewers had rung the BBC yesterday to complain about the original decision, with many others unable to get through. Ex-

plaining the response, a BBC spokeswoman said last night: "Viewers will now have a triple treat."

The American courtroom drama is one of several BBC programmes to be replaced by coverage of Atlanta from tomorrow. Some programmes, including *Children's BBC*, are to go to BBC2, causing further confusion.

A typical television schedule has Olympics coverage on BBC1 from 7am to 9am, 9.05am to 12.35pm, 1.40pm to 5.35pm, 7pm to 8.30pm, and

10.10pm to 4.25am. BBC2 takes over from 8.30pm to 10.10pm. BBC2 has shown *Murder One* on Tuesday nights at 9pm, with episodes repeated the following night.

"Some people will be upset," a spokeswoman admitted yesterday, before the change of plan was announced. "But the Olympics is a major sporting event and we are committed to covering it for the nation. Programmes have only been delayed, and others have been moved to BBC2 for the duration." *Mur-*

der One has regularly attracted 3½ million viewers.

In this week's episode, the defence and the prosecution made their closing speeches, the judge summed up, and the jury considering murder charges against the victim's boyfriend retired. But viewers looking forward to hearing the verdict were told after the twentieth programme that the final episodes would not be shown for three weeks.

Olympics, pages 41, 42, 44
TV schedules, page 43

MEPs call Britain to account over BSE

Britain and the European Commission are to be called before a European parliamentary inquiry to answer allegations that they mishandled the BSE crisis, MEPs decided yesterday. The move to set up a formal Commission of Inquiry followed anger in the Strasbourg parliament this week at reports that the Brussels executive had sought to play down the BSE crisis and suspicions that it had not taken all necessary measures to handle the disease.

The leaders of the main political blocs in the Parliament decided on the brief for an inquiry yesterday. A 17-member panel is to carry out a three-month hearing to "clarify the nature and causes of the alleged infringement or maladministration of the application of Community law by the competent authorities of the European Union and the member states with regard to BSE". The state mainly targeted is Britain, and the Parliament is certain to endorse the leaders' decision in a vote today which will launch the inquiry.

Coastguards cleared

The coastguards on duty at the time of the Lyme Bay canoe disaster in March 1993 were yesterday cleared of blame by the official inquiry into the tragedy. Four teenagers died when their canoes capsized in bad weather during a school trip to Dorset. The Portland coastguards were criticised during the trial of the trip organiser for being slow to react. The report into the accident, published yesterday, said none of the deaths could be attributed to the coastguards' actions and that no disciplinary action should be taken.

Hume tells PM of anger

John Major had a heated meeting last night with MPs from the Social Democratic and Labour Party who expressed the anger of Northern Ireland's nationalist community over the handling of last week's Orange Order marches. Nationalist MPs told the Prime Minister that the decision to let the marches go ahead had destroyed the community's confidence in the Northern Ireland talks. John Hume, the SDLP leader, led demands for assurances that security would be improved for future marches to protect nationalists.

Mother and child shot

Postnatal depression may have led a woman to shoot dead her 23-month-old daughter and to turn the shotgun on herself, her mother said yesterday. The bodies of Mandy Fisher, 34, and her only child, Emma, were found by her husband, David, at the family's home in Wymondham, Norfolk, on Tuesday. Christine Lake said that her daughter had not been the same since giving birth to Emma by Caesarean section. "She was very quiet after the birth... I think she might have been depressed."

Smokers lose legal aid

The Legal Aid Board has said it can provide no further financial backing to smokers fighting for compensation from tobacco giants for failing to outline the health risks of cigarettes. The board ruled that claims for funding did not satisfy legal criteria. Dozens of former smokers suffering tobacco-related diseases are seeking legal aid. Requests to help to mount actions were originally turned down but the decision was reversed on judicial review in 1994 and legal aid was granted to a series of claims in February 1995.

Murder jury sent home

The jury in the Sophie Hook murder trial was sent home for the night after failing to reach a verdict after four hours of deliberation. Howard Hughes, 31, denies twice raping the seven-year-old, strangling her and throwing her body into the sea after taking from a tent in her uncle's garden in Llandudno on July 30 last year. The jury of eight men and four women requested a transcript of Mr Hughes's evidence. Mr Justice Curtis explained it was not available, but spent 50 minutes reading them his note of the testimony.

Chas Chandler dies

Chas Chandler, bass player with the Sixties pop group The Animals and the man who discovered Jimi Hendrix, has died after a suspected heart attack. He was 57. Chandler, who built a successful career as a rock manager and promoter after the Animals broke up, died in Newcastle General Hospital early yesterday after collapsing at his home in Cullercoats, Tyne-side. He leaves a wife, Madeline, and three children, Alex, 17, Katherine, 13 and Lizzy, 7.

Deportation challenge

A young Nepalese man won a court battle yesterday to challenge the Government's refusal to let him remain in Britain. Mr Justice Laws said that the case of Jay Khadka, 19, was exceptional, which was one of the criteria for relaxing immigration rules. Mr Khadka was brought to Britain at the age of 14 by Richard Morley, who says he was honouring a promise to the boy's father. An immigration appeals tribunal's recommendation that he be allowed to stay was rejected by the Home Secretary.

Legal rift

Continued from page 1
our, in particular by Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, who argues that citizens would have a quicker remedy over abuses of human rights if they could have them adjudicated in British courts rather than making the long trail to Strasbourg.

Last night Lord Bingham also entered the debate between judges and ministers and their respective powers, stating that judges had no "extra-judicial ambitions". He made clear, however, that judges would continue to make the law in the courts.

He added that judicial review, in which ministers have seen a series of decisions overturned, ensured that powers conferred by Parliament were used as it intended.

Lord Bingham avoided reference to Michael Howard's controversial sentencing plans expected to be contained in a Bill this autumn. But he said that judges were entitled to hope that their "scope to exercise their powers of judgement will not be unduly restricted". They would also hope that the "ancient link between justice and mercy will not be sundered by statute"

Minister in letter row will keep job

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR is to keep David Davis as the Minister for European affairs until the general election. The Prime Minister let it be known last night that he has no intention of sacking or moving Mr Davis in next week's mini reshuffle despite reports that the minister wrote to Mr Major several weeks ago asking to resign because of his unhappiness at the beef policy and frustration over lack of promotion.

Authoritative sources told *The Times* last night that Mr Major regarded Mr Davis as a highly valued member of the Government who would have an important role in negotiations in the coming months. Mr Major wanted to clear up the "nonsense" circulating about his future.

Mr Major has clearly forgiven Mr Davis over what ministers regard as a foolish decision to have written the letter, and to have talked



Davis: assurance from the premier

about it to someone he regarded as a friend.

The Prime Minister has told Mr Davis that he wants him to stay, and Mr Davis has readily agreed.

The reshuffle will not involve Cabinet members. Two ministers, Tim Eggart at Energy and Steve Norris at Transport, are to leave the Government, and there will be a number of other changes in the lower and middle ranks.

Peter Pans

Continued from page 1
gramme he dismissed the document as cranky and "a leak from some kids in the office, some juniors who were asked to go out and produce this as part of a management review".

He added: "This is my unkind and middle-aged description of bright young things in the Treasury who have been asked to go out and consider what consequences possible political changes in the world might have for management structures in the Treasury."

Mr Clarke was revising his words by yesterday afternoon. Having called them "kids" in the morning they were "middle ranking" officials by the time of the Commons debate.

The report was commissioned by the Treasury Management Board which is chaired by Sir Terry Burns, the Permanent Secretary. One official observed last night: "He is not accustomed to talking to kids or office juniors."

Treasury officials made clear yesterday that no ministers had read the report. They have now.

DSS to establish internal market

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PETER LILLEY is to create an internal market in the Department of Social Security on the lines pioneered by the National Health Service.

He hopes to encourage businesses to invest millions of pounds in new computer systems by offering them the chance to compete with civil servants to handle benefit claims.

The internal market will be introduced next April. Like the health service, the principle will be to separate purchasers of services from providers, encouraging competition and saving money.

"The people who specify contracts and monitor performance need to be distinct from the people who deliver the result," the Secretary of State told DSS managers yesterday.

He hopes the market will help to achieve his aim of cutting 25 per cent from the £2 billion annual cost of administration. Jobs will be lost but

said he hoped that many of these would be through natural wastage and redeployment rather than redundancy.

Mr Lilley wants to consign as much paperwork to the dustbin as possible, taking the DSS away from its clerical, pen-pushing past into a computerised future. But he needs private investors to inject the capital needed to pay for the complex programmes.

A study of income support, which is paid to four million people a year and costs £1.7 million to administer, shows that Benefits Agency staff perform up to 300 steps, and complete as many as 250 forms, when handling each claim. Mr Lilley hopes to reduce this to 100 steps.

A typical claim can take five days to complete and involve five members of staff. But only 29 minutes is spent working directly on the claim, the rest of the time is liaising. Sixty per cent of forms are wrongly completed.

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Boy on Jade murder charge remanded into care

A BOY aged 13 charged with murdering the schoolgirl Jade Matthews was remanded into secure local authority care for a week yesterday.

He spoke only to confirm details of his identity and to acknowledge that he understood the charge during a six-minute hearing at South Sefton Youth Court, Merseyside.

Frank Dillon, his solicitor, said afterwards that the boy — who cannot be named for legal reasons — emphatically denied the allegation.

The boy is accused of murdering the nine-year-old girl at Netherton, Mer-

seyside, on July 7. Cuthbert Regan, for the prosecution, opposed bail and applied for him to be remanded into local authority care.

Mr Dillon made no application for bail and supported the application for a care order. Rex Whitrow, solicitor for Sefton District Council, applied for a secure accommodation order, which was granted by the bench chairman, Jim Dixon.

The boy, dressed in a black T-shirt, a turquoise and purple jacket, blue jeans and white trainers, sat in court as the legal formalities were conducted. His

stepfather sat in the front row of the well of the court, close to the boy, wearing a black bomber jacket and listening intently.

Fifteen minutes after the hearing the boy was driven away from the court, watched silently by a crowd of about 50 people who had gathered outside. He was driven away in a white van belonging to the Merseyside police Operational Support division, accompanied by four police motorcycle outriders.

Outside the courtroom Mr Dillon made a statement in which he said:

"My client emphatically denies the allegation. He is entitled to the presumption of innocence which is the very cornerstone of our system of justice. It is vitally important that my client is afforded a scrupulously fair trial and that nothing is said, done or published which is likely to impede the course of justice and the due process of law."

The dead girl disappeared after going out to play near her home in Bould. Her battered body was found 1½ miles half away at a railway sidings early the next morning.

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Football player badly injured by republican gang

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A FOOTBALLER may never play again after republican thugs burst into his Ulster home and broke his leg and kneecap with spiked cudgels. Last night Donal Gray said he had no idea why he had been the target of a "punishment squad".

Gray, 19, a junior international, was one of the brightest young stars of Irish League football, and had returned to play in Ulster only last season after a transfer from the Scottish club Partick Thistle. He was at home with his father early yesterday when four masked men arrived claiming to be from the Provisional IRA.

So-called punishment beatings by republican and loyalist paramilitary gangs have increased hugely since the IRA called a ceasefire at the end of August 1994. Gray, a defender with Glenavon FC in Lurgan, Co. Armagh, said in hospital: "They kicked down the door and said they wanted me outside. I wouldn't go out and was screaming. One of them had a gun. He put it to my head and said if I didn't go out he would blow my head off."

Gray was attacked in the hallway, and then again when he was pushed outside into the garden. He said: "I just curled up in a ball. They hit my legs and one of the first blows was

the break. They just kept beating at me and I covered my head and let them hit away. My left leg is agony."

Interviewed on BBC Radio Ulster, he added: "They knew I have a career and now it is just messed up. The doctors said they thought it was very serious and I might not be able to play again. Even if I recover physically, my head's all messed up."

Police described the attack at Newry's Bancroft Park estate as "cruel back-street thuggery". Detective Inspector Alan Maines said: "This is a 19-year-old of great footballing talent who was no doubt going in the right direction to the top of his sphere in Northern Ireland. His injuries could mean a very promising footballing career is in jeopardy."

Gray is to have surgery today at Belfast City Hospital. Brian Strain, of the Northern Ireland Professional Footballers' Association, who is also a physiotherapist, said: "He will need a long period of rehabilitation after suffering those types of injuries. His career could be threatened. It is very worrying that one of our fellow professionals has been injured in this type of incident. Everyone in the Irish League will be thinking of Donal." A spokesman for the

Glenavon club said: "He is a promising young player and we were hoping that he would have held down a regular place in the senior side this season."

In another attack in the republican Markets area of Belfast, a man suffered a broken arm when he was attacked by a gang in an alley. Alliance Party councillor Dr Philip McGarry condemned the attacks as "the latest in a series of vicious beatings, many of which have left their victims with long physical and psychological effects."

In the 18 months before the 1994 ceasefire, there were ten known "punishment" beatings by republicans. Since then, there have been more than 270. Loyalists carried out 51 before the ceasefire, and more than 130 since.

The IRA has claimed that it carries out its beatings in order to punish alleged "anti-social elements".

Politicians from all sides have condemned the IRA for acting as judge, jury and executioner.

The IRA gangs in the Newry and South Armagh area are notoriously brutal. In 1994 John Fee, an SDLP councillor, was beaten by a gang outside his home after he condemned an IRA mortar attack on a security base.



Donal Gray in action. He is now in hospital after his leg and kneecap were broken

Husband failed to tell wife he was a woman

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A MARRIAGE was declared null and void after 17 years when a wife discovered her husband was really a woman. The Court of Appeal was told yesterday. Their relationship was based on a "profound deception", her counsel said.

The couple had two children — a boy aged 9 and a girl of 4 — who were born after the woman underwent artificial insemination from a donor. The wife said her husband had told her he had had a vasectomy.

Eventually she began divorce proceedings after an argument in which she accused him of not being a real man. She hired a private detective to find out her husband's true sexuality by producing his birth certificate.

The husband took his case to the appeal court after a High Court judge ruled that he had married by committing perjury and that, consequently, he was not entitled to a division of the marriage wealth or automatic access to the children.

After the hearing, Madeleine Rees, his solicitor, said that the case raised profound issues about the status of transsexuals in British society. She said that if her client won his case, it would be a step in the right direction for the "true identity of transsexuals of both sexes."

Neither of the couple can be named in order to protect their children. The husband, called

"J" in court, lives in the Birmingham area and his former wife, now 49, lives with the children in West Sussex.

Ben Emerson, for the husband, said his client had "an unshakable conviction that at his core he is a man, although he is trapped in a woman's body". Mr Emerson said it was never discussed before or during the marriage "what the nature of this man's birth position was".

He said there had been ample chance during sexual intercourse for the woman to realise she was in "a relationship with someone who was not a full-blooded man".

The man had an operation to remove his breasts and had undergone hormonal treatment before he met the woman. During intercourse he used an artificial sex aid. He had never told her his original gender and now accepted that he should have done so.

The three appeal court judges, Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Potter, were asked if the man could have been said to have committed a perjury when he declared himself a bachelor on the marriage certificate.

Lord Justice Ward, announcing that the judgment would be reserved, said: "We are aware of the growing body of medical and international opinion that this court will ignore at its peril."

RSPCA censures pigeon post stunt as outrageous

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A PUBLICITY stunt involving the transportation of racing pigeons in cardboard boxes at London by courier, went badly wrong as the birds landed on the desks of bewildered financial journalists.

The "pigeon post" from Scottish Life International, an Edinburgh insurance firm, was condemned as "absolutely outrageous" by the RSPCA, which sent an inspector to round up forlorn pigeons at The Times, the BBC Money Programme, the Daily Mail and the Daily Mirror for inspection by a vet. The RSPCA claimed that some of the birds were so frightened by their humpy ride around the capital that they laid eggs even though it is outside their breeding season.

Altogether Clarendon, a London-based public relations company, dispatched 77 pigeons to television companies and national newspapers to promote a new savings bond. The homing pigeons, it said, should be watered and set free. The journalist whose pigeon arrived back first in its loft in Brentford, northwest London, would win a case of Famous Grouse whisky.

Jo Crozier, an RSPCA spokesman, said: "We are absolutely outraged. These birds were being sent to people who were not expecting them and hadn't any idea of how to look after them." Literature that accompanied the packages claimed that the birds

were being carried in an RSPCA-approved box, but the RSPCA denied this.

Late yesterday all but the pigeons in the hands of the vet had arrived back at the loft. James McDonald of Clarendon, who dreamed up the idea, said that he would not have organised it if he believed it was cruel. The birds were transported by approved carrier — Amtrak Express Parcels — in appropriate boxes.

John Allison, marketing director of Scottish Life International, said: "The last thing I want to do is to have any connection with anything that involved cruelty."



A pigeon in the box in which it was delivered

Holiday on Riviera for Princess

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE Princess of Wales and the Duchess of York flew to the French Riviera for a holiday with their children yesterday.

They arrived at Cannes airport in a private chartered jet accompanied by three armed police bodyguards and were quickly driven away in a white minibus and two black limousines. They are thought to be staying at a villa owned by a wealthy friend.

The break follows the Princess's divorce hearing and her decision to sever links with nearly 100 charities earlier this week.

Yesterday, it emerged that some charities dropped by the Princess of Wales are unlikely to find royal replacements. Other members of the Royal Family are heavily committed and senior figures in particular are reluctant to take on more. Buckingham Palace is expecting approaches from many of the charities but is likely to encourage them to seek figureheads in other walks of life.

Headway, the head injuries organisation at which the Princess announced her withdrawal from public life in 1993, has voiced fears it may not be able to find another member of the Royal Family. Ian Garrow, the chief executive, said: "I think we and the other charities abandoned by the Princess will find that the other royals will not be able to take on the extra burden."

Costly Cole d'Azur, page 13

Crafty dog was manipulating policewoman, says trainer

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A POLICE dog-handler accused of giving a former WPC a hopeless German Shepherd in order to ruin her career said yesterday that the dog had simply learnt to manipulate its owner.

PC David Brown denied accusations by Elizabeth Fletcher that she was given a "diff" dog in a conspiracy to stop her joining the male-dominated Nottinghamshire police dog section.

During the training course in September 1993, PC Brown wrote in his course notes: "The dog has the ability to take advantage of the slightest opportunity." Asked to explain, he told a Nottingham tribunal yesterday: "What the dog was doing there was taking advantage of the handler."

Mrs Fletcher, 43, is claiming compensation from Nottingham police for sexual discrimination after injuring her knees falling over the dog. Beau, in training and on active duty, she claims the dog was easily distracted while tracking offenders and did not bite

hard enough to hold on when it caught them.

PC Brown accepted that Beau had difficulty barking and "took off" during one training exercise, causing Mrs Fletcher to fall over and hit a concrete post.

But he said accidents were inevitable in simulated chases and claimed the animal had no more problems than most novice dogs. "This dog was not a poor one. At the end of the 13-week training course he was up to the required standard."

Dogs under stress react in three different ways: bite, flight, or lay down and pretend to be dead, he claimed.

"The bite situation often happens with novice handlers and novice dogs where the dog will feel the stress and react by turning round and biting the handler. The dog is saying: 'I've had enough. Stop it.'"

"Another dog will turn round when under stress, just fold up, lay down, say, 'I give up, totally give up.'"

"The third dog will get out of the handler's reach, and it is thinking: 'I'll jump away two

feet. Now I've got away from the stress — I'm free from it.'"

Beau, he said, fell into the third category. It also had a tendency to roam because its previous owner's children had left the door open, allowing it to wander the streets.

PC Brown denied telling Mrs Fletcher: "Give the dog to me, you stupid woman, and I'll show you how it's done," or telling her a YTS trainee could do better.

He admitted ignoring her because he felt that anything he said could be misconstrued, and that the culture in the dog section, in which Mrs Fletcher was the only woman at the time, was male-dominated.

PC Brown has been on sick leave with depression for more than a year. He was moved from the dog section after another complaint and told the tribunal he found it "deeply upsetting" that he had had no contact with dogs since.

The tribunal heard that Beau was now an Army dog and was making good progress.

The hearing continues.

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MPs say foetus responds at ten weeks

New evidence on foetal pain raises abortion doubts

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE unborn foetus is capable of feeling pain from the tenth week of pregnancy, according to a report from the Parliamentary Pro-Life Group that will raise new doubts about the ethics of abortion.

The report of findings by 15 scientists from Britain, Ireland and Australia will say that foetuses can experience pain earlier than previously thought. If confirmed, this could mean a radical revision of abortion practice to ensure that foetuses are anaesthetised before being removed from the womb.

Of the 165,000 abortions carried out in England and Wales each year, about 100,000 are performed at nine weeks or later.

The report, published today, runs counter to evidence presented in an official review by Maria Fitzgerald, professor of neurodevelopmental biology at University College Hospital, London, which was commissioned by the Health Department.

The report, *Foetal pain — an update of current scientific knowledge*, published in May 1995, concluded that there was

no evidence that the foetus could feel pain prior to 26 weeks because its brain and neurological system were not sufficiently developed.

Some scientists, not linked with the Parliamentary Pro-Life Group, are questioning this conclusion. As reported in *The Times* last February, Professor Nicholas Fisk and Dr Vivette Glover, two of Britain's foremost researchers on foetal pain, say the issue demands examination.

Advances in surgery mean that many foetuses undergo operations inside the womb without analgesia even though pain relief is routinely given to premature babies of the same gestational age undergoing the procedure after birth.

Dr Glover, a psychopharmacologist in the department of paediatrics at Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, Chiswick, London, said that the perception of pain required consciousness which, in adults, depended on electrical activity in the cortex of the brain.

"Below 13 weeks' gestation, the foetus has no such cortical

activity. After 26 weeks the full anatomical system is present and the foetus is quite likely to feel pain. The area of uncertainty is between 13 and 26 weeks," she said.

Professor Fisk, also of Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, measured levels of cortisol, a stress hormone, in foetuses from which blood samples were taken in the womb. He found that the level rose sharply as the needle was inserted. "This is the first evidence that the human foetus mounts a definable stress response to a potentially painful stimulus," he said.

Other experts have criticised these observations, saying that there are huge differences in individual responses to pain and an unclear margin between pleasure and pain, which could not be distinguished in terms of hormonal responses.

A spokesman for the Parliamentary Pro-Life Group said yesterday: "The onus of proof is now on those who say the foetus does not feel pain. If they cannot prove it there should be a requirement for appropriate anaesthesia."



Wonders of the world opening up around two young visitors as they descend into the Natural History Museum's new £12 million Earth Galleries.

Leanne Smith, left, and Lucy Bates, both 13, from Highbury Fields, north London, were at yesterday's opening day of the centre, which uses high-tech interac-

Journey to centre of the Earth

rough said it would help to restore vital elements of wonder at the world of science. "The spectacular exhibits will light a flame of enthusiasm which can grow into serious interest," he said. The galleries, half-funded by a National

Lottery grant, were opened by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary. Visitors can experience a simulated earthquake — including sound effects with shuddering floors — and wonder at a pair of fossilised footprints dating

from 3.8 million years ago. Dr Giles Clarke, who oversaw the design of exhibits, said he hoped to show that earth sciences were not dull.

"We wanted to attract people to the subject matter and deepen their understanding and appreciation of the world around them, explaining how continents shift and volcanoes explode."

Arts groups saved from insolvency

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

SCOTLAND'S four debt-ridden national arts companies have been pulled "back from the precipice" by an ambitious rescue package announced in Glasgow yesterday.

Scottish Ballet, Scottish Opera, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra were facing insolvency with combined deficits of £978,000. Their survival looks more secure with the promise of extra Scottish Office funding, the possibility of National Lottery cash, and closer working arrangements.

But the opera and ballet will share an orchestra from next year, a move considered unacceptable three months ago. Jobs losses may also be inevitable.

Lord Lindsay, Scottish Arts Minister, said: "This is something of a turning point. In a sense what we are looking at is the Crown Jewels of Scotland's cultural life, but we cannot give them a blank cheque."

The main thrust of the package is to form, with

immediate effect, a National Companies Implementation Group (NCIG), chaired by Neil McIntosh, CBE, who also chaired the working group responsible for yesterday's report.

Made up of representatives from the Scottish Office and the Scottish Arts Council, it will oversee the introduction of changes over the next two to three years. The NCIG will also take control of the purse strings, effectively relieving the Scottish Arts Council of the responsibility of allocating funding, which from now on will be ring-fenced.

The companies have all prepared financial estimates to 2000 and the Scottish Office has agreed to meet forecast deficits, investing £1.3 million this year, followed by an average £2.25 million a year for the next three years.

The success of the plans relies heavily on lottery funding of £300,000-£400,000 to stabilise the companies and to allow them to create new works.

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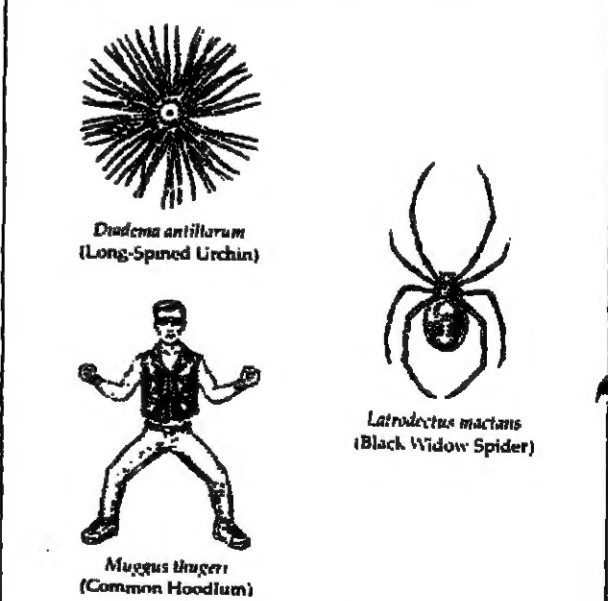
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Botham admits he altered ball's shape but not condition

BY JOANNA BALE AND TIM JONES

THE High Court battle between Ian Botham and Imran Khan threatens to disrupt next Thursday's Test match between England and Pakistan. Mike Atherton, the England captain, is to be called to the witness box by George Carman, QC, to give evidence on ball-tampering, which dominated much of yesterday's hearing.

During an acrimonious duel with Mr Carman, Botham denied he was tampering with a ball in a video recording of a Test match against Pakistan in 1982. The film appeared to show him examining and pressing a ball with his fingers, and Mr Carman claimed that Botham was picking at the seam of the ball.

Botham said he could never have used his nails to unpick the seam as he did not have any. Offering to show his nails to Mr Carman, the former England captain said: "I have bitten them since I was a kid."

Mr Carman declined the offer, saying: "I don't know when you had your last manicure."

Botham said he had merely been trying to push the ball back into shape.

CARMAN: Were you trying to alter the condition of the ball?
BOTHAM: No way. Altering its shape.

CARMAN: Oh, for heaven's sake!
BOTHAM: The shape, not the condition.

CARMAN: Mr Botham, you should have been a casuist.

The judge intervened: "Now, that's a comment, Mr Carman."

Mr Carman apologised before Botham continued.

BOTHAM: We had continuously asked for the ball to be changed. But if the umpire says no, you try to change it in front of him. There is no skulduggery.

CARMAN: Is it a technical breach of the rules if you change the shape of the ball in your hands?

BOTHAM: No, sir.

Mr Carman then read an article from *The Sun* about ball-tampering, quoting Imran as saying: "All the greats have done it."

CARMAN: You don't agree with that?

BOTHAM: No, I don't.

Mr Carman then turned to Atherton's autobiography, *A Test Of Cricket*, published in 1995, in which Atherton says there was "nothing new in players trying to alter the condition of the ball", and that because it was "common practice" the laws should be changed to allow it.

Mr Carman asked Botham whether he agreed with Atherton's comment that it was common practice.

Botham replied: "I'm in no position to comment on Mike Atherton's opinions. I suggest you ask Mike Atherton."

Mr Carman replied: "I will."

The court watched a television clip of Geoff Boycott, the former England opener, in a 1994 programme *The Devil's Advocate*, when he said that ball-tampering — seam-lifting

and using lip salve and sun cream — had become an acceptable practice and he had seen it done by a lot of players.

Asked if he had seen it many times, Botham replied: "No — I've questioned it once or twice."

Asked if it surprised him that an "English cricketing legend" agreed with Imran that it was an accepted practice, he answered: "Geoffrey Boycott is entitled to his own opinion. I have not used any of those practices."

Botham also denied he had broken the rules while he was bowling during a Test match against India. The jury had heard Ted Dexter, the commentator, saying Botham had thrown a new ball to Bob Taylor, the wicket-keeper, so he could perhaps remove the lacquer with his gloves.

Mr Carman produced a new pair of wicket-keeping gloves and asked whether it was possible the ball could be dried with the rubber dimples on the palm.

Botham said it would require sandpaper to take the lacquer off the ball and could not be done with a glove. He said it was his practice to throw a new ball at the wicket-keeper so the moisture could be removed.

CARMAN: Mr Dexter is one of the greatest experts in the world of cricket but said it was the first time he had seen that happening.

BOTHAM: Ted is prone to make those statements.

Botham is suing Imran for libel over an article in *The Sun* in which he said that illegal ball-tampering was common among fast bowlers.

Botham and Allan Lamb are also suing over an article in *India Today* magazine in which Imran allegedly accused them of racism, of being uneducated and of lacking class and upbringing.

The hearing continues.



Botham denies having tampered with ball



People waiting outside the Royal Courts of Justice, where queues form an hour before the doors open. "You get addicted," said one spectator

Better than television, ideal for pensioners

BY JOANNA BALE AND TIM JONES

THE daily spectacle of two of the cricketing world's greatest heroes locked in a legal battle every bit as compelling as their on-field clashes draws hundreds of excited spectators every day.

With limited space in the public gallery, the race for a seat in the stands for the Ian Botham and Imran Khan contest begins when the main doors of the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand open at 9am.

By 9.30am, a long queue of pensioners, cricket fans and starstruck teenagers has formed outside Court 13.

They wait patiently, swapping opinions over who is likely to win and how much money the loser will have to pay. Among them are journalists, vying for the eight places in the press box.

As the usher opens the door at 10am, the civility ends and it is every man — or woman — for himself as the crowd

surges forward, eager to secure a seat. As ribs are elbowed and toes crushed, the shrieks of pain and indignation echo around the ancient stone walls. Spectators struggle to squeeze, one by one, through a tiny door into the arena, where they hurl themselves onto one of the oak benches.

Rose Price, 76, from Dagenham, east London, was first in the queue yesterday. "I'm bored with my humdrum life as a pensioner. When you come to something like this, it stimulates the brain. It's so much better than television."

Next to her in the public gallery was William Wass, 76, of Hackney, east London. He had been every day since the trial began and was explaining the finer points to Mrs Price.

Smiling with anticipation, he said: "Once you come to a case like this, you get addicted to it. That's why I have to come every day. It's so much better than reading about it in

the newspapers. It's a real education and you are able to see all the famous people in the flesh."

"People who work all day really miss out. It's ideal for pensioners like me because you can just sit and watch."

Lisa Norman, 14, from Cambridge, came with a schoolfriend who shared an interest in becoming lawyers. She said: "We were brought

here by a solicitor friend who introduced us to Ian Botham and Allan Lamb. It was very exciting."

Nizam Entezam, 65, from south London, said that he had come to see his sporting heroes. He said: "I managed to shake hands with all three of them. They are all people I admire and I wish them all well. I have been a great fan of Botham for years and love to

see him play, but also admire Imran and Lamb."

A retired businessman who declined to give his name said he had been coming to the High Court "once or twice a week" since he saw the Derek Bentley and Christopher Craig case in 1952, who were charged with murdering a policeman. He said: "I like to see justice being done, but most of all, I love the drama."

Army to create rainbow warriors

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

SOLDIERS of the future will have chameleon uniforms that change colour and adjust the level of insulation depending on the temperature. Prototypes are being designed and tested at the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency.

Weather is the main enemy of soldiers on the battlefield. "More soldiers have died from hypothermia and exposure than in battle," Richard Scott, chief scientist at the agency's science and technology division, told *New Scientist*.

Air is the main insulator in clothing, so scientists are looking at ways to change the amount of air trapped in a single layer. They hope to build sensors that monitor the external temperature and

adjust the insulation accordingly. Another possibility is the use of artificial fur with fibres that rise and fall with heat and cold.

The team wants to create fireproof clothing that is comfortable and light, instead of the bulky suits of today. "What we're looking for is a smart material that sits passively in the clothing without interfering with comfort and becomes heat-resistant only when there is fire."

The agency, based at Colchester, Essex, is also investigating substances that swell at high temperature to form a thick protective layer. A few millimetres extra thickness can provide 30 seconds' protection, enough to save lives in fires.

Clothes that change colour to reflect heat are also being developed. Mr Scott is

experimenting with green material that becomes white in a fraction of a second when exposed to a flame. "We can get pastel shades and green but we haven't got the blacks or browns needed for camouflage," he said.

On the battlefield of the future, soldiers will have to be invisible not only to the eye but to infra-red and radio waves. Thin metallised coatings can help to hide them from infra-red night-sights but will make them stand out like beacons on radar.

"This one will be difficult," Mr Scott admitted.

Past designs of combat clothing have used an onion-skin approach: lots of layers, each contributing a particular characteristic. The agency's aim is to reduce the layers to three.

Promoter died 'after police baton blows'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MUSIC and boxing promoter died after being repeatedly struck over the head with an American-style police baton, an inquest jury was told yesterday. Brian Douglas, 33, was said to have been "crumpling" unconscious to the floor when he was hit with the truncheon again.

Recalling the "unprovoked attack", Stafford Solomon, a friend of Mr Douglas, told the hearing: "Every night when I go to sleep, I see PC Martin Tuffey bring his truncheon down on Brian's head."

Mr Solomon, who said his wrist was broken and his head trodden on by the same policeman, added that when he saw Mr Douglas in a police cell he was shocked at his condition.

"He looked terrible. The whole of the left side of his face had dropped, as had his lip."

The inquest at Southwark Crown Court heard that Mr Douglas, of Balham, south-west London, was taken to St Thomas's Hospital, where he

slipped into a coma and died five days later on May 8 last year. Mr Solomon, 40, told the coroner, Sir Montague Levine, that the night his friend was fatally injured had begun peacefully in a Clapham wine bar. Just after midnight, as they drove home, Mr Douglas stopped his car to let Mr Solomon relieve himself. Mr Solomon said he then heard a lot of shouting.

He turned to see two officers running towards him and Mr Douglas, who had got out of the car. He recalled hearing a series of groans from Mr Douglas as PC Tuffey's colleague, PC Paul Harrison, delivered a series of truncheon blows to his body.

The boxing promoter tried to back away, only to be attacked by the other officer who "smashed" his truncheon over his head "for no reason", Mr Solomon said. He added that police later dropped all charges against him. The inquest continues.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Accountant cleared of impropriety

A leading accountant has been cleared of any impropriety by the Charity Commissioners and the National Audit Office. Gerry Acher has been accused of a conflict of interest when KPMG, in which he is a senior partner, provided services for the charity Motability, of which he is vice-chairman. Motability, which helps the disabled to lease cars using welfare payments, was cleared of operational criticisms.

Charge dropped

Jack Robinson, 54, chairman of Wigan rugby league club, had a charge of conspiracy to defraud a weekly newspaper dropped. Wigan magistrates remanded him on bail accused of three other offences.

Damages upheld

The *Sunday Times* lost an appeal against an "excessive" £45,000 libel award to Victor Kiam, the Remington chief executive. It had alleged that he filed for bankruptcy protection after defaulting on a loan.

Just a snifter

The first scented magazine advertisements for alcohol, using the smell of juniper berries to promote Gordon's Gin, are being featured in seven publications including *Homes and Gardens*.

CORRECTION

An article (July 16) about Tessa Jowell, Labour MP for Dulwich, was not written by her but was based on an interview with Jason Cowley, whose name was accidentally omitted.

Old Testament has grains of truth

CEREAL grains from Jericho have produced evidence supporting the Old Testament account of the Exodus. The grains are taken from an archaeological layer that corresponds to the Bronze-Age destruction of the biblical site.

By precise carbon dating, researchers from Israel and Holland have established that the grains are about 3,311 years old. This was 45 years after a volcanic eruption at Santorini in the Mediterranean which spread debris throughout the region. Some

experts think the eruption was responsible for the plague of "darkness that can be felt" which, according to the Book of Exodus, occurred immediately before the flight of the Hebrews from Egypt. The Bible says that after leaving Egypt, the Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land and destroying Jericho.

If they set out just after the Santorini eruption, as has been claimed, they would have arrived at Jericho at the right time to account for its destruction, as testified by the

age of the grains. The findings, revealed in a letter to the science journal *Nature*, undermine the claims that Jericho and other sites in Canaan were destroyed by Egyptian armies of the XVIIIth dynasty.

Hendrik Bruins, from the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, and Johannes van der Plicht, from Groningen University, Holland, wrote: "Although they are powerful tools, archaeology and pottery are not the sole avenues that can be used to unravel the human past."

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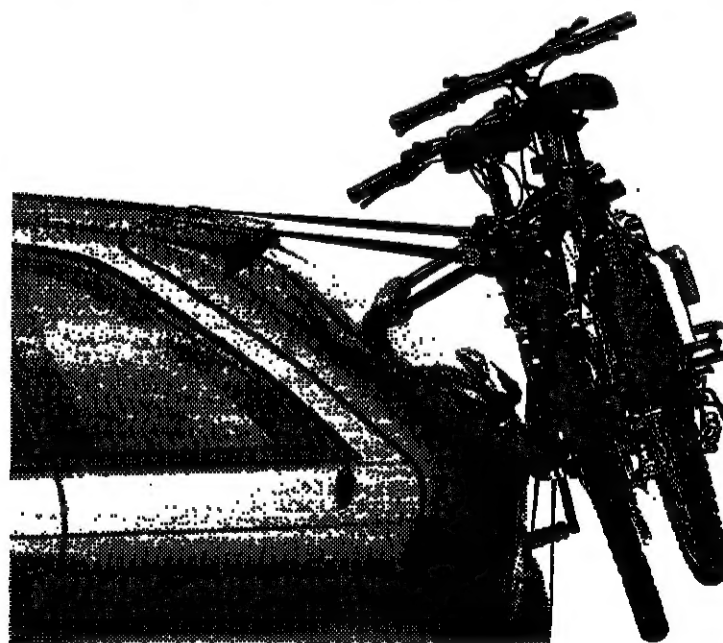
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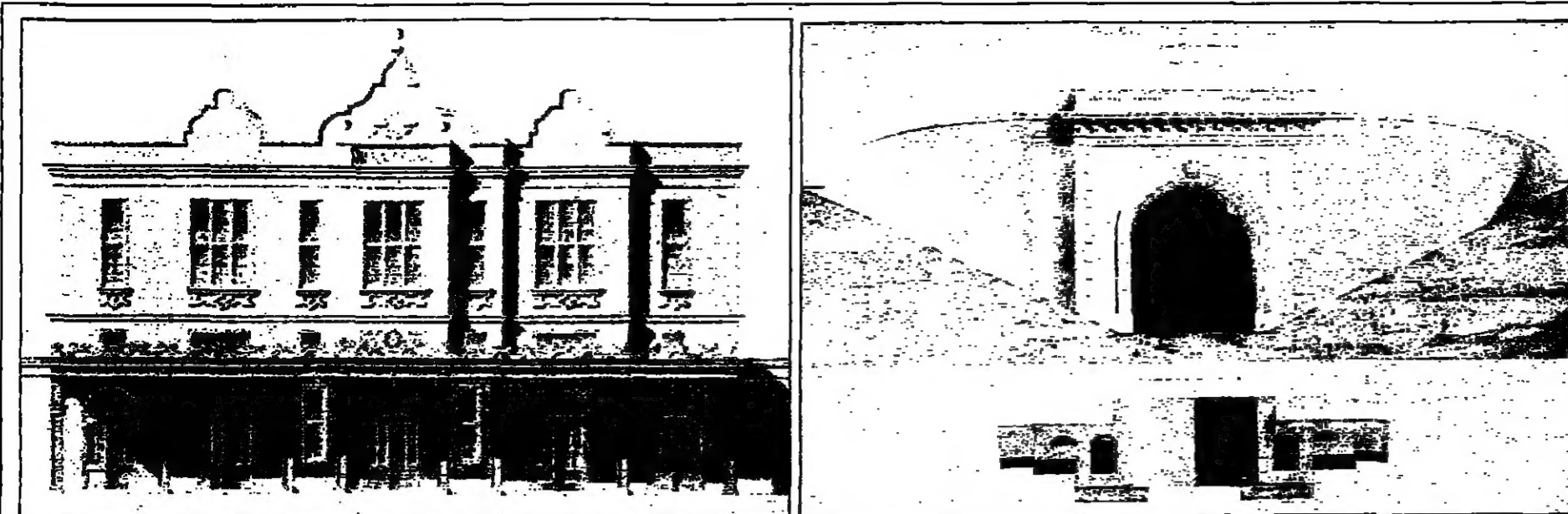
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Prints of Brunel's drawings for the depot at Bath station, left, and Box Tunnel near Bath, which sold out in hours yesterday. The originals are still consulted by engineers

Rail fans make tracks for rare Brunel prints

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

COPIES of original railway drawings by Isambard Kingdom Brunel never seen before by the public sold out within hours yesterday.

Railway enthusiasts flocked to Swindon Railway Museum where the 6,000 prints were put on sale by Railtrack more than 150 years after

they were hand-drawn by the great Victorian engineer.

Railtrack staff said they were staggered by the response and could have sold the initial print run of 1,000 copies of six classic drawings at £8 each more than four times over.

The original drawings, which are still consulted by engineers making repairs to Brunel structures, are kept in secure air-conditioned

lockers at Swindon. They are regarded as among the most valuable archives from the industrial revolution.

Thousands of drawings by Brunel, revered round the world as the greatest railway engineer, have survived from the 1830-40s, but they have never before been in open circulation. Railtrack is expected to release copies of a further selection of drawings to meet public demand.

The first prints feature the Royal Albert Bridge at Saltash, Cornwall; the West Portal at Box Tunnel, near Bath; Bath station; Dorchester Road station in Culham, Oxfordshire; the timber viaduct for the Devon and Tavistock railway; and the station building at Bristol Temple Meads.

The first five drawings are by Brunel himself and the sixth is by his friend Matthew Digby Wyatt,

who helped in the construction of Paddington station, west London, in 1854.

Peter Noble, 67, Brunel's great-grandson, said that he was "absolutely delighted" that rail enthusiasts were being allowed to see the work.

"I inherited some of the drawings but I live in a small cottage and could not cope with a national heritage like that," he said.

Watchdog seeks more powers to fine Camelot

By JON ASHWORTH

EXTRA powers to impose steep fines on Camelot were sought yesterday by the National Lottery regulator after a series of rule breaches. Peter Davis wants harsher penalties at his disposal to tackle problems such as under-age sales and poor information.

Mr Davis, who has been angered by suggestions that he is a "toothless watchdog", outlined his tougher stance in the Ofcom annual report. Ticket sales exceeded £5.2 billion in the year to March, making the lottery bigger than the £4.5 billion confectionery market.

With the pre-tax profits of the operator Camelot running at about £1.5 million a week, the regulator says that fines must be big to be a disincentive.

The report says that Camelot should do more to tackle retailers who sell tickets illegally to under-16s. Mr Davis told BBC Radio 4: "I think they have made considerable efforts, but I am encouraging them to do more. They can't take away a retailer's franchise without hard evidence that the retailer has broken the law. I want to make sure that they gather all the evidence in every possible case."

Problems were highlighted by the case of a 15-year-old boy who won £10,000 on an Instant game. Camelot is taking the matter to court to try to establish a precedent on such issues.

Mr Davis has powers to seek a court order requiring compliance, to report breaches publicly, and to suspend or revoke a licence, but has

limited powers to impose financial penalties. He has asked the Department of National Heritage to consider legislation to strengthen his hand.

Camelot faces ongoing penalties of £1 million a day if it falls behind with the installation of lottery terminals, but Mr Davis said the availability of more financial penalties would reduce the number of "housekeeping" transgressions. He added: "Clearly if the sums were to be trivial, it would be no disincentive. What I am looking for is a real disincentive to Camelot to make sure they take these things seriously."

The size of any fines would be a matter for Parliament. Camelot breached the terms of its licence on 17 occasions during the year, although the transgressions were technical and minor. Many related to the sale of merchandise such as T-shirts and key rings. Player information was not available in some retailers. Camelot rectified the problems as soon as they were pointed out.

Mr Davis acknowledged that 1995-96 had been a difficult year. A report by MPs on Mr Davis's acceptance of flights on corporate jet from GTEch, a lottery backer, is due to be published later next month.

Mr Davis said there was little or no reliable evidence to indicate that the lottery was causing addiction. Capping the jackpot would be a relatively simple step, almost inevitably leading to a fall in sales.

Old Etonian bought drugs for pupils

AN OLD Etonian was caught by security guards in the grounds of Eton College with a pocketful of drugs which he planned to sell to pupils, a court was told yesterday.

Thomas Seidler, 19, admitted possessing 311.6 grams of cannabis resin with intent to supply at the college, where Prince William is a pupil, on November 6 last year. He had previously admitted four other drugs charges.

Eloise Marshall, for the prosecution at Reading Crown Court, asked Michael Collins, QC, the Assistant Recorder, to record not guilty verdicts on two other charges which Seidler denied. Seidler, who

has been suspended from Warwick University, had denied possessing magic mushrooms and amphetamines with intent to supply.

Francis Jones, representing him, said: "Seidler, having knowledge of a dealer, collected money from other students with the idea that to purchase in volume, a cheaper price could be got for all."

"It was not profit for himself. It was that all of them were getting cheaper drugs."

Seidler, of Streatham, south London, will be sentenced on all five drugs charges on August 2. He was bailed on condition that he does not go within two miles of the college.

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Huge out-of-town shopping centre beats policy switch

By Sarah Cunningham

THE largest and possibly last of the out-of-town shopping centres that have changed the face of many communities will create 6,800 jobs and attract up to 30 million customers a year, Michael Heseltine said yesterday.

The £700 million Bluewater development near Dartford in Kent was one of the last to be given planning permission before Department of the Environment rules were tightened. Its developers admit that, were they to apply today, Bluewater would be unlikely to be approved.

The area is in the heart of the Thames Gateway, the government-backed initiative to regenerate the riverside from east London to Sheerness in Kent. Despite concern among local traders about losing business to Bluewater, Dartford council supports the scheme. A council spokesman said: "It will bring thousands of new jobs to the area and



regenerate the whole environment."

Ivor Jones, leader of the Labour-led council, said: "We were very fortunate in getting in before a stop was put on this kind of development."

Mr Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday unveiled the foundation stone of the shopping and leisure centre, which will have a cinema, cafes and restaurants as well as 275 shops. It is being built on the site of a disused

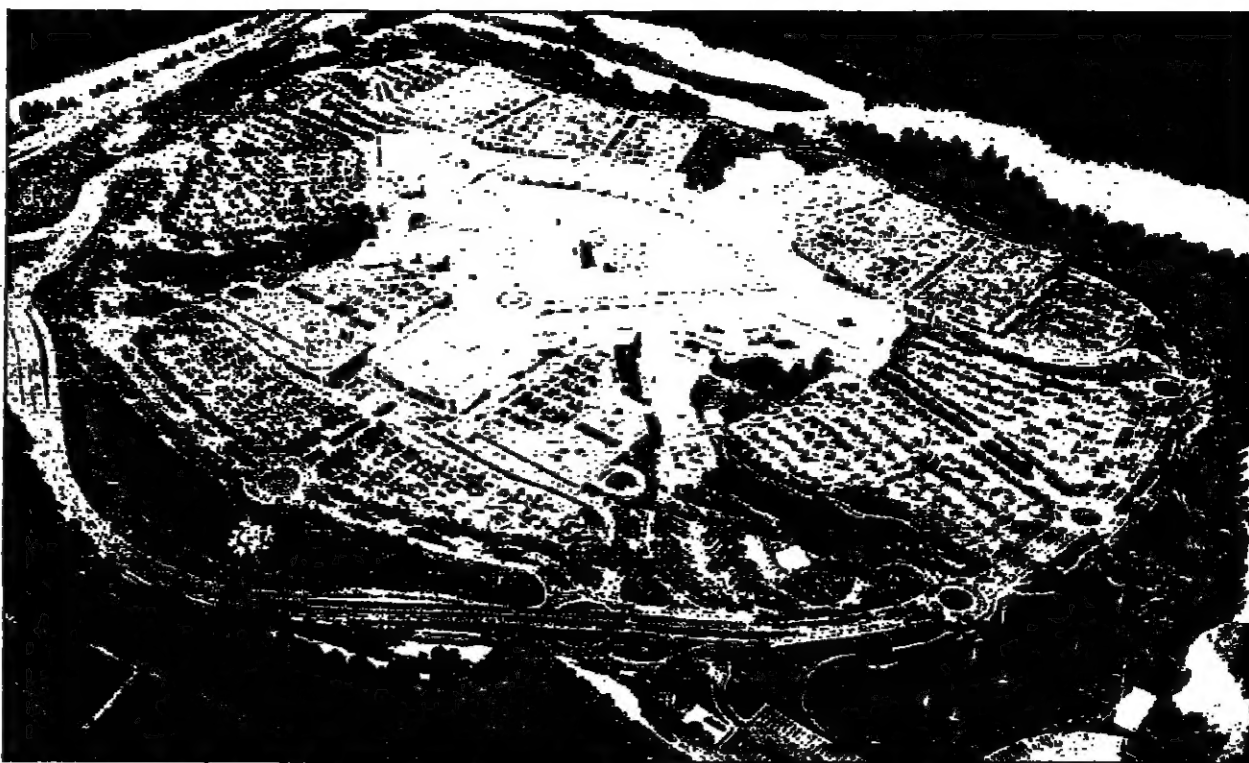
chalk quarry. During construction up to 7,000 further jobs will be created.

When it opens in the spring of 1999, the triangular-shaped centre will have a Marks and Spencer, House of Fraser and John Lewis in each corner with Boots, C & A, W H Smith and other stores in connecting malls.

Almost 10 million people live within an hour's drive of the site, which is near the M25 and the A2. The centre will have 13,000 car parking spaces, coach parking and a bus station and terminal. The local council is also considering building a light railway link.

Bluewater, which will cover 1.6 million square feet, will eclipse the Metro Centre in Gateshead and the Lakeside Shopping Centre in Thurrock, 15 miles away at the other end of the Dartford Tunnel.

The scheme is being developed by the Australian property giant Lend Lease together with Blue Circle Industries.



A model of the Bluewater development, to be built in Kent, one of the few such centres to be approved in recent years

Funding is being provided by Lloyds Bank, Barclays, the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Prudential group.

Mr Heseltine said of the Bluewater scheme: "It is a classic example of regenerating previously-used industrial land and underpins the UK's global ability to attract substantial inward investment."

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, who has said

that he wants to restore "the viability and vitality of town centres", was not at the ceremony yesterday. His department was represented by the junior minister David Curry, who said it was possible that Bluewater would be the last retail centre of its size to open.

Only a handful of big shopping centres have been given the go-ahead in the 1990s. Most of them, like

Bluewater, slipped under the wire before the rules were changed but Mr Gummer vetoed a proposed centre at Duxford, Cambridgeshire.

The development is also expected to benefit from the proposed Ebbsfleet International Station, which will bring day-trippers from France and Belgium through the Channel Tunnel.

The council spokesman

said: "A few years ago this quarry was going to be the biggest landfill site in Europe. Now we will have this wonderful new development which will bring people from miles around, even from Europe. Of course there will be problems, but we will work hard to ensure town centres do not die and the surrounding environment is protected."

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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Magpies' move not black and white

By Paul Wilkinson

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE is split over proposals to build a super-stadium to match its soccer side's status as a leading British club.

Sir John Hall, Newcastle United's chairman, wants to create a multimillion-pound sporting club, embracing other games such as rugby and ice-hockey. His preferred site at Castle Leazes, a quarter of a mile from Newcastle United's ground at St James's Park, is on the Town Moor —



Hall: delighted with support for new venue

green-belt parkland protected by ancient covenants. It is also within a conservation area.

The idea has antagonised residents and angered conservationists who fear the loss of 50 acres of open space. A pressure group, No Business on the Moor, will be launched formally at a public meeting tonight.

This week, in the face of a threat by Sir John to move out of the city to a site across the Tyne in Gateshead, the city council's controlling Labour group voted to overturn its own development plan and support a stadium on the historic Moor.

Some 34 Labour councillors backed a proposal to invite the club — whose nickname, the Magpies, reflects its black and white strip — to submit a planning application for its new ground. 18 opposed the idea and four abstained.

The decision is said to have delighted Sir John but campaigners against the development say that councillors have been stamped into the decision.

Fossil finds open new window on evolution

THE fossilised remains of a previously unknown type of ancient shrimp and a bristled worm have been discovered in rocks that are 400 million years old (Nick Nuttall writes).

Dr David Siveter of Leicester University, one of the scientists responsible for the finds, said yesterday: "These give us a window on evolution which we did not have before."

The Herefordshire finds, the first to emerge from the Silurian period of 400 million years ago, were made in potato-sized nodules of rock at a site that has been known to geologists for 150 years. During the Silurian period the land there was covered by sea.

The finds include two shrimp-like creatures measuring 3-4mm long with eyes on stalks and a worm covered in fine bristles which would have lived in the seabed mud. Dr Siveter, whose teams' findings are published in *Nature*, said yesterday that they had been fortunate.

Fossilised remains of soft-bodied animals such as insects, crabs and lobsters are notoriously rare and tend to be formed during freak events. Some flying insects have survived after being preserved in amber.

It seems that the ocean in which the Herefordshire animals were living was suddenly covered in volcanic ash. This changed the chemistry of the seawater into a mineral soup which fossilised the creatures within days.

The researchers, based at Leicester, Bristol University and the University Museum of Oxford, are reluctant to publicise the exact location of the discoveries in case the area is plundered by fossil hunters. But they hope to put the finds on display soon at the museum.

Exploding stars may cause global warming

By Nick Nuttall

DYING stars billions of miles away influence the climate on Earth, scientists said yesterday. Meteorologists in Denmark have matched high levels of cosmic ray bombardment, produced from the exploding stars, with rises in cloud cover across the globe.

The increase is as high as 3 per cent, with more clouds formed over the northern than the southern hemisphere. The Danish scientists believe that global warming, considered by most scientists to be caused by a rise in man-made pollution, might instead be caused by the cosmic rays.

The findings were announced at an international scientific meeting at Birmingham University. Professor Eigil Friis-Christensen of the Danish Meteorological Institute in Copenhagen said that high levels of cosmic rays ionised the atmosphere, increasing the formation of water droplets and condensation.

Satellite images showed a sharp rise in cloud cover between 1984 and 1987. A cosmic ray detector based in Colorado showed that this was a period of high bombardment. Cloud cover fell sharply between 1987 and 1992 during low ray bombardment before rising again. Other scientists linked the temporary halt in rising global temperatures with the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines.

The cosmic-ray theorists say cosmic rays are blocked periodically by solar winds — charged particles ejected by eruptions on the sun. Professor Friis-Christensen, head of Solar Terrestrial Physics at the Institute, said the findings delivered to the Committee on Space Research needed to be built-in to super computer models which are trying to predict the consequences of rising pollution.

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Isle of Wight poll tests the water on seeking devolution

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

THE Isle of Wight took a first step yesterday towards regaining part of the independence it lost more than 700 years ago by commissioning a poll to ask residents if they want devolution.

The island — which was sold for 6,000 marks to Edward I in 1293 by Isabella de Fortibus — is to pay MORI £12,000 to survey 800 residents. The idea has been championed by Morris Barton, the Liberal Democrat council leader whose family have lived on the island since the 14th century. He believes it would benefit from powers similar to those enjoyed by the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

Mr Barton told the council policy committee yesterday that the island's economic problems had been ignored by Westminster for too long. "If the poll results are as interesting as I think they will be, then I will be pushing for a full-scale referendum," he said when the committee agreed by 17 votes to three to the poll.

"If the vote is in favour of devolution we will need an Act of Parliament. If the Government still refuses to budge we will take the issue to the European Court. We are not asking for outright indepen-

dence, we will still honour the Crown and the Government. But we have had enough of being ignored," he said.

The island has the highest unemployment and the lowest average wages in southern England but Mr Barton said that the Government consistently failed to back its case for European funding. "We as an island community should be asking for devolved status similar to the Isle of Man, giving us the ability to handle more of our own affairs."

Mr Barton said that the council was forced by the Treasury this week to withdraw an ecu token it was selling, which could be exchanged for goods in local shops. Profits went towards helping unemployed youngsters on the island, but the Treasury ruled that the tokens contravened the 1971 Coinage Act.

"Every time the islanders seek to take worthwhile initiatives the dreaded hand of government descends on us," he said. "I have spent 27 years trying to convince the Government of our case but now believe we need a mass pressure group and devolution from England."

Barry Field, the Conservative MP for the island, said

that the idea was farcical. He has asked the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence what the implications would be. "If this scheme gets the go-ahead we will be a banana republic with no bananas."

He said that independent status would force up local taxes. "The island derives £160 million in benefits from Westminster and this amount could only be raised by charging the 50,000 taxpayers on the island far more than they pay now."

"Up until now it has been along the lines of Brian Rix, but if they press on with this idea I would be very concerned," he said.

The island has a small and politically insignificant independence movement. The Vectis Nationalist Party — Vectis is the island's Roman name — unsuccessfully put up candidates at local elections for many years and independence candidates fought general elections until 1987.

The Channel Islands, which belong to the Crown, have retained a level of independence, including the right to fix tax levels, while the Isle of Man is a self-governing Crown dependency with its own parliament and tax laws.

Leading article, page 17



Palace receives youngest ceremonial visitor

Professor Eric Lye showing his OBE insignia to his daughter Annie, 2, who yesterday became the youngest person to attend an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace. She took her teddy bear and had to stand on one of the gold and salmon-pink chairs to see her father honoured by the Queen for his architectural work.

Annie had flown from Hong Kong with her parents and half-brother Chris, 24. Her mother Joan said: "We wanted to bring her so all the family could be together and because we did not want to leave her with someone

she does not know. When we asked the Palace they said, 'She's very young', but they said it would be all right. My husband wrote to make sure they understood and they wrote back saying they would give us a seat near the door. I don't know how much of today she will remember, but we will

never forget it." The previous youngest person to attend is thought to have been Drew, the six-year-old son of Peter Beardsley, the Newcastle United footballer.

Annie occasionally let out a squeak of delight as a Guards band played during the ceremony in the Palace

ballroom, lit by crystal chandeliers. She was allowed to wander the east wing when she became bored and did not flinch as the Queen's Yeoman Guards started marching towards her. Mrs Lye pulled her clear after the officer in charge asked: "Clear the way, please."

Another of the distinguished military men in charge of the ceremony watched her feeding make-believe chocolates to her teddy and commented: "She is delightful." Annie also helped to pass the time by making faces at the floor-to-ceiling mirrors.

Divers believe hull is Roman wreck

By RICHARD DUCE

THE diving team that discovered the remains of the *Mary Rose* believes it may have discovered the first Roman shipwreck to be found off the British coast.

Carbon-dating tests are to be carried out on timbers from the wreck of a 40 ft hull found on the seabed a mile off Hayling Island, Hampshire. Francis Grey, curator of the Roman collection at the Museum of London, said: "Any discovery of a Roman wreck would be incredibly important because so little archaeological evidence exists."

Evidence of the wreck was discovered by the *Mary Rose* diving team 30 feet below the surface in Hayling Bay during echo soundings of the area for Havant Borough Council. In 1991 they sent off a piece of timber to establish whether it could be dated by its rings. The results showed only that the wreck was more than 500 years old and made from a foreign wood.

The diving team plans to take another sample for car-

bon-dating after they have raised the £600 fee for the test.

Alexander McKee, the diver who found the *Mary Rose* 30 years ago, had long hoped to find a Roman wreck off Hampshire. He died in 1992.

The divers have discovered dressed stones in the waters off nearby Bracklesham Bay, lending support to Mr McKee's theory that a Roman road was once linked to a harbour.

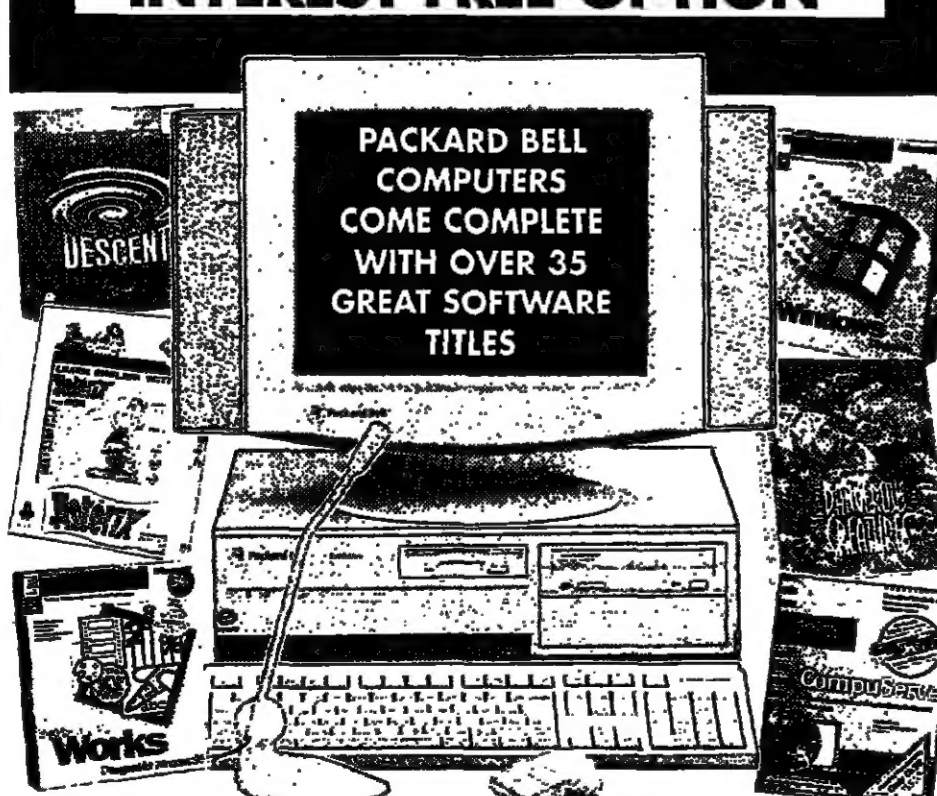
Ceramic tiles bearing the stamp of the Roman British fleet, *Classis Britannica*, had been found throughout Sussex, showing widespread naval activity in the area.

Wrecks from the Roman occupation of Britain have long been thought to be scattered round the coast but none has been found.

Don Bullivant, of the eight-man diving team, said yesterday: "It was Mac's last project and it was his dream to find a Roman site in the Solent, and we are very close. One day I hope he will be recognised as one of the pioneers of underwater archaeology."

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Redwood praises Treasury's look into the future

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN REDWOOD backed yesterday the Treasury officials whose radical proposals for cuts in the welfare state were leaked to *The Times*.

The former Welsh Secretary and leader of the Tory Right said that the "kids", as the Chancellor described them yesterday, should be congratulated for raising issues of importance. During a Commons debate on the economy, he also urged the Government to introduce a package of swinging tax cuts as an election-winning strategy.

"Thank heavens for kids having fun in the Treasury," he told MPs. "They are raising issues that matter. We should debate future taxes and spending plans."

But he also said that he did not accept everything in the document, pointing out that the Treasury officials had laid a trap for Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, by outlining the consequences of some of Labour's plans.

He highlighted two proposals in the document: cutting state education funding for children over 16 and privatising roads. He said that Labour was considering cutting child benefit for the over-16s, harming their ability to stay in education, and already advan-

ced forcing motorists pay more to use the roads. He asked the Government to confirm its support for free places for sixth-formers and its opposition to further road tolls.

"The Treasury officials have been reading too many opposition documents. They have been infected by the Opposition's hatred of the motorist."

Mr Redwood told the Government to show that it was the party of lower taxes. "We cannot go on borrowing at the current rate. We must lower taxes. More prosperity needs lower tax rates. Cutting taxes is a moral crusade."

He told Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, that public spending had been rising too swiftly and urged him to revise his public spending plans by £7 billion. "It is possible to slow the rate of growth in public spending while protecting health, education, law and order and defence."

Opening the debate, Mr Clarke dismissed the Treasury document as "fatuous" and "worthless". He said: "It is not a policy document. It is not policy advice."

Mr Clarke said that Britain had enjoyed the strongest recovery since 1992 of any major European country, prompted by a growth in

consumer spending. Families were £450 a year better off than last year, with real personal disposable income rising by 2.5 per cent this year, and about to rise by 3 per cent next year.

Unemployment was at its lowest since 1901 and Britain had had its longest sustained period of low inflation for 50 years. He emphasised the recent cuts in interest rates that low inflation had allowed and said he had no policy differences with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. "I think the inflation record I quoted — our best for 50 years — shows that the Ken and Eddie show is a pretty successful team performance."

Mr Clarke also said that public borrowing was coming down, but it had been a little higher than forecast because tax revenues had fallen unexpectedly. As tax revenues picked up, he now expected the PSBR to come down to £27 billion in 1996-97 and to £23 billion in 1997-98. "It is precisely because our tax revenues are rising and we are holding public spending so firm that public borrowing is falling."

Mr Clarke concluded: "I say — I think without fear of sensible contradiction — that the UK is facing the most



promising prospects for a generation."

For Labour, Mr Brown accused the Government of relying on a consumer boom to advance the recovery. "It is neither investment-led nor industry-led, nor is it an export-led."

In a speech repeatedly interrupted by Tory backbenchers, he rejected Mr Clarke's opti-

mistic economic outlook. He said that over 17 years Britain's record on economic and employment growth and on controlling inflation was poor compared with most of the other 23 countries in the OECD leagues.

He highlighted the prediction in the leaked document that Britain's economy will be relegated from the first divi-

sion in the next century, falling below Thailand, Mexico and Brazil. "Therefore it is not surprising that, in contrast to the bluster from you — your smug and self-satisfied account of the economy today, we have to discover that the Treasury, in private, do not believe a word of it."

Leading article, page 17

Clarke's 'kids' were doing the right thing

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Labour may live to regret the outraged tone of its attack on the Treasury strategy paper disclosed in *The Times* yesterday. To claim that the document reveals the real Tory agenda for a fifth term is absurd. It does not even represent an options paper for ministers. Far from being some anglicised version of Newt Gingrich's Contract with America, the 123-page paper reads like the management review it is, prepared for Sir Terry Burns, the Treasury Permanent Secretary, about the likely pressures on the department and its resources in the 2000-2005 period. So it was also silly of Kenneth Clarke to rubbish the paper as having been prepared by "kids". As John Redwood urged, it is exactly the type of study which should be under way in Whitehall.

Civil servants should be thinking the unthinkable, or rather exploring options which politicians find too embarrassing to discuss in public. The real scandal would be if officials were not examining the implications for public spending either if there are no radical changes in the role of the State but improvements in its accountability and democratic control, or if a future government seeks a smaller State. The Treasury should be looking at the privatisation of roads and of the welfare state, even if no government regards them as politically feasible.

Such radical thinking was the hallmark of the old Central Policy Review Staff think-tank. But that often made its reports uncomfortable reading for ministers, always worried by the fear of leaks. For instance, earlier studies about the implications of long-term public spending trends by the CPRS and the Treasury in 1982 caused a big stir when some radical options, including switching to private health insurance, appeared in *The Economist*. The papers were quickly suppressed and the row contributed to the death of the CPRS a year later. But without such long-term thinking — and the current study is more modest in its remit — politicians will continue to fudge and postpone decisions. There were many fascinating sections — for instance, the revelation of the cynicism of

much of Whitehall towards open government. Or perhaps it is just realism that policy-makers will not write frankly if their advice is to become public. Similarly, the assessment of the probability of the single European currency going ahead, and of British participation, is level-headed. The report's view that "the chances might be less than 50 per cent that the UK would join in 1999 even if there were a change of government" has been welcomed by the sceptics, though pro-Europeans should be pleased that the chances are even that high.

The greatest controversy is inevitably over public spending. Gordon Brown can fairly press Kenneth Clarke, as he did in the Commons, about how far the Chancellor endorses the options. Mr Brown has put forward ideas for developing the Treasury's role in promoting competitiveness and equality of opportunity. So he has a point that the Treasury paper reflects the shock to its self-confidence from Black Wednesday and is rather defensive. But he is wrong to criticise such a study of options however unpalatable they may be for Labour.

One of Labour's greatest faults now is its safety-first approach and aversion to thinking the unthinkable. For instance, when Mr Brown raised the possibility of reallocating money from child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds to provide more direct assistance for this age group, many of his colleagues recoiled in horror. Mr Brown maintains a robust line on overall spending and insists that extra expenditure must be found from savings, but that involves saying where. The Treasury paper underlines how the pressures for higher spending on health and education and to maintain a minimum income safety net will require cutbacks in some programmes if taxes are not raised. In a year's time, Mr Brown may welcome such a candid and far-reaching study by officials.

PETER RIDDELL

Tory ideas on cutting welfare go back more than 30 years

By PHILIP WEBSTER

LITTLE changes in politics. Tory ministers were calling for the dismantling of the welfare state more than 30 years ago, a Cabinet document revealed yesterday as the storm over the latest Treasury ideas raged at Westminster.

Martin Redmayne, the Tory Chief Whip, wrote to the Prime Minister, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, on June 19, 1964, saying that the party's MPs backed the idea of a new Beveridge-style inquiry. His letter, bemoaning that a simi-

lar call for an inquiry had been rejected two and a half years earlier, said: "The first essentials are to accept that the benefits of the welfare state should not be universally received." In words that would win approval on the Tory Right, he added: "I would like to see all above a certain level of income excluded from benefit."

The Cabinet minute, supplied to *The Times* by the former Labour minister Tony Benn, suggests that Sir Alec was less than convinced. He scribbled at the bottom: "Beveridge was very costly. Would

another inquiry be as bad, or if we win, should we not impose our own scheme?"

Mr Benn said yesterday that the ideas in the Treasury document could be traced back 32 years. "In this sense the Tories in the early sixties were well ahead of Newt Gingrich, and all this is now coming out at a time when Gingrich himself is totally discredited, even in America."

The episode emphasised the need to maintain the principles of universal benefits, which were being challenged even within Labour in the name of modernisation.

Lib Dems want new central bank

By JAMES LANDALE

THE Chancellor's power to set interest rates should be given to a new independent central bank, the Liberal Democrats said yesterday.

The replacement for the Bank of England would be able to reassure the financial markets that interest rates would be set without political interference. The party said that recent tensions between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, over interest rates had caused uncertainty in the markets and harmed attempts to keep inflation down.

Parliament would set inflation targets but the central bank would make operational decisions, such as on interest rates, in the short term. The Lib Dems believe that the bank would bring price stability and interest rates between half and one percentage point lower than present trends, saving £3 billion over five years from lower interest payments on the national debt.

Malcolm Bruce, the party's Treasury spokesman, said that it would offer the permanently low inflation and low interest rates that Germany had enjoyed for 40 years. "An independent bank is a necessity for the UK, and the sooner we get on with it the better."

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and the Prime Minister; Debates on British forces in Bosnia; housing need; government guidance on council responsibilities; in the Lords: Broadcasting Bill, Commons amendments; Armed Forces Bill, third reading.

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Ridge: decorated for service in Vietnam

Dole considers war veteran as running-mate for all-hero ticket

BY TIM HAMES

WITH less than four weeks to the Republican convention, speculation has mounted on Robert Dole's choice for running-mate. With his nomination secure and the main possible policy dispute — abortion — coming under control, the No 2 slot on the Republican ticket is the remaining item of interest. The man most mentioned is Tom Ridge, the Governor of Pennsylvania.

The attraction of Mr Ridge to the Dole campaign is three-fold. The first is the contrast with the President. Mr Ridge was born 51 weeks before Mr Clinton and also in relative poverty; his was a working-class family of Slovakian and Irish immigrants.

After their paths diverged, whereas Mr Clinton spent time at Oxford University, thus avoiding the Vietnam War, Mr Ridge won a scholarship to Harvard and then

served in the conflict as a decorated battlefield sergeant.

The prospect of an all-hero ticket excites Republicans. Mr Ridge has the added advantage that while as a Governor he is superficially a Washington outsider, he previously spent 12 years in the House of Representatives and is familiar with the capital's press corps, essential in a presidential contest. Finally, he is the classic ticket-balancer to Mr Dole: a youthful

northern Catholic with a moderately pro-abortion rights record. Although that last part will worry some in the religious Right, his conservatism in other areas — tax, spending, crime and parental power in schools — will appeal to the free-market faction.

Mr Dole's first choice would have been General Colin Powell, who has persistently declined the post. He then contemplated a woman to improve his standing

among female voters. The obvious option — Christine Whitman, Governor of New Jersey — is so liberal, especially on abortion, that she would have split the Republican Party.

After that, interest turned to the governors of four Midwestern states — Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin — a region regarded as the critical battleground in November. While they remain possibilities, closer examination of this

set suggests they would be less than inspirational on the campaign trail. None made himself available in South-East Asia during the 1960s.

Choosing a credible political figure with a military aura would suit Mr Dole's strategy of making the election a referendum on Mr Clinton's character. Given his present standing in the polls, however, Mr Dole may need more than a personable hero who might deliver his home state.

Republicans fear Congress loss as campaign drifts

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN activists fear that Bob Dole's disorganised and gaffe-prone campaign for the White House will not only lead to a heavy defeat by President Clinton but also cost the party control of Congress.

It is just over a month since Mr Dole quit as majority leader in the Senate, and he has been drifting ever since. Mr Clinton is 20 percentage points ahead in the polls and the gap is widening.

Opinion surveys show that growing numbers of Republicans voters already think Mr Dole will lose in November. That means they are less likely to cast their ballots, inflicting damage on other Republican candidates who two years ago captured both the Senate and House of Representatives from the Democrats for the first time in 40 years.

The Washington buzzwords for the Dole campaign are "brain-dead". Advice and criticism came from many quarters yesterday. Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington, a con-

servative commentator who opposed Mr Dole's candidacy early on, said Republicans were increasingly asking how they could convince him to withdraw from the nomination for the sake of their majorities on Capitol Hill.

She would not go that far for now, she said, but would not rule out the possibility that Mr Dole should quit if he fails to make bold and dramatic changes to his campaign soon and explains why he wants to be President. Getting rid of him would be difficult — after a wobbly start, he won the primaries convincingly and there are no obvious substitutes.

Mr Dole caught his critics by surprise when he picked Susan Molinari, a moderate Republican congresswoman, to give the keynote speech at next month's Republican convention. By yesterday his choice had run into trouble with religious and social conservatives over her support for abortion rights. Ralph Reed,

director of the Christian Coalition, said his 1.8 million members might stay at home on election day unless Mr Dole remained "sensitive and committed" to their needs. That was a thinly veiled warning that Mr Dole, who has flip-flopped over tolerance for abortion rights, must pick a pro-life candidate for the vice-presidency or else.

Frustration runs deep inside the Dole campaign where one aide said Mr Dole refuses to take advice from anyone other than his wife Elizabeth. Her political skills were conspicuous when the couple appeared together on CNN's *Larry King Live*. As Mr King pummeled Mr Dole for having no message, she sprang to his defence and said: "The message is very strong. It's more opportunities, smaller government, and stronger and safer families." Mr Dole has never put his case so succinctly.

William Buckley, doyen of conservative pundits, put forward the provocative argument in his column that Mrs Dole, who has held two Cabinet posts, would make an excellent choice for the vice-presidency. He admitted, though, it would be a brazen act of nepotism. Mr Dole's aides have forbidden him from making ill-considered remarks of the kind that landed him in trouble over abortion, tobacco addiction and the ban on assault weapons. Instead, he must stay "on message". Senior Republicans are also demanding vision and an economic agenda.



Hot shot: Lois Shelton concentrates on sinking a putt at the Walla Walla Country Club in Washington state, apparently unaware that the clubhouse is on fire behind her. The blaze, which caused damage estimated at \$3.8 million (£2.4 million), took hours for firefighters to extinguish

Primary suspect is trapped by his own hand

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE anonymous author of *Primary Colors*, the effervescent satire of the 1992 Clinton campaign and enduring publishing sensation in the United States, was identified almost beyond doubt yesterday as Joe Klein, a leading commentator on political America.

Mr Klein, who has consistently denied scripting the book — estimated to have made at least \$6 million (£3.8 million) for its author — appeared to have been trapped by his own hand after an eminent graphologist named him.

Since the January publication of *Primary Colors*, the author has been known simply as Anonymous. After months of investigation, how-

ever, *The Washington Post* tracked down samples of handwritten changes to the original manuscript and examples of Mr Klein's handwriting. These have been analysed by Maureen Casey Owens, a top document examiner and past president of the American Academy of Foren-

sic Sciences. She concluded yesterday that "the two samples of handwriting are absolutely consistent throughout".

Confronted on holiday, Mr Klein at first asked for five minutes to think about the allegation and then telephoned the newspaper to say: "I have no comment. I've said

everything I have to say." In February, Mr Klein said he would stake his credibility as a journalist on the fact that he had no part in writing the successful satire. "For God's sake, definitely, I didn't write it," he declared then.

Other figures, ranging from Mandy Grunwald, the cam-

paign consultant, to George Stephanopoulos, the senior White House political aide, have since been targets of an inquisitive Washington press which had seemingly disregarded Mr Klein, a *Newsweek* columnist and CBS television commentator, as a candidate.

The Washington Post had been offered the manuscript by a secondhand bookseller. Marked with the words "Confidential. For your eyes only! Do not distribute to booksellers!", the script was compared with Mr Klein's writing.

In the meantime, Anonymous has become a candidate for the Pulitzer Prize, a submission which required a letter attesting that its author was an American citizen. Mr Klein, who had been placed at 50-1 in the betting stakes, yesterday dropped to odds-on favourite.



Part of the *Primary Colors* manuscript by Anonymous compared with a sample of handwriting by Joe Klein, the television commentator and columnist

US plan for Gulf security

Washington: The threat of more and far greater terrorist attacks in the Gulf has forced the Pentagon to draw up a comprehensive plan to protect American forces (Ian Brodie writes).

William Perry, the Defence Secretary, announced yesterday that the Americans will prepare for a "very intense threat" from terrorists "trying to drive us out of Saudi

Arabia". The effort would be extensive and costly.

Mr Perry said the goal was to shift troops from urban areas to more secure and isolated sites. Consent to move up to 5,000 servicemen in Saudi Arabia was given by local authorities who had initially objected. The steps come after 19 Americans were killed by a bomb near Dhahran last month.

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EU considers visa curb on Americans over Cuba policy

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN STRASBOURG AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE European Union yesterday told Washington it was not satisfied with President Clinton's compromise on its new Cuban trade law and said it would continue to prepare retaliatory action against American business interests.

Britain said the EU could still impose sanctions against the United States, even though Washington has delayed for six months anti-Cuban measures which could damage European firms. Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, told BBC radio: "That's quite possible. We're looking at various options."

Mr Lang said Britain and other EU members could impose visa restrictions on US citizens and take other measures against American firms operating in Europe. "It's not the kind of range of activities one seeks to get involved in but we cannot leave our own interests unprotected and we must bring home to the Americans the unacceptable nature of what they have been doing."

Mr Spring, who was in the European Parliament as the current president of EU foreign ministers, noted that the Title III of the Helms-Burton Act had still come into force. This allows Americans to sue

foreign companies which benefit from Cuban assets expropriated by President Castro's Government. "It does not remove the extra-territorial effect of the legislation, nor does it remove the restrictions which have been applied to European businessmen," Mr Spring said.

The Commission, which acts for the 15 member states in foreign trade, said the Act remained a "sword of Damocles" over European businessmen. It was damaging for



The Italian Foreign Ministry is negotiating with Cuban authorities for President Castro, above, to make an official visit to Rome in November, diplomatic sources said yesterday (John Phillips writes). Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister, hopes the Cuban leader will come to the World Food Summit organised by the United Nations in November.

confidence that liability would accumulate under the Helms-Burton measure even though legal action was frozen, it said. The EU was proceeding on a course of counter-measures, a spokesman for Sir Leon Brittan, the Trade Commissioner, said.

The Clinton Administration reacted with some disappointment last night to British and European intentions to maintain a retaliatory position. "This is an unfortunate reaction from the Europeans," said a senior official in the National Security Council.

The point of this decision was to work with and not against the allies and the President made a very tough political decision. In view of the election, he could have just gone ahead with Title III.

The White House believes the Helms-Burton Act has been significant fruit. Several companies have indicated their intentions to pull out of Cuba. Others are contemplating the future.

Over the next few months, before the February 1 deadline when the issue will be revisited, the Administration will organise a diplomatic initiative in Europe to discuss alternative means of isolating Dr Castro. It was not certain last night whether this would take the form of a mini-summit on Cuba or the appointment by Mr Clinton of a special envoy to the European Union.

Benefit for Havana, page 16

US put on alert for 'cyber attack'

BY TOM RHODES

THE Clinton Administration is launching a joint public and private effort to thwart the potentially catastrophic threat of a "cyber attack" which could leave America's national security and other computer networks paralysed before the end of the century.

President Clinton has ordered an independent commission to investigate all aspects of security in the national information infrastructure and to ensure counter-measures against terrorist or foreign attacks within a year.

His close security aides also believe more must be done to protect areas ranging from telephone systems and power grids to financial services, medical records, gas and oil pipelines and water supplies.

"What we need is the equivalent of the Manhattan Project," said Jamie Gorelick, the Deputy Attorney-General, referring to the Second World War atomic bomb programme. "It is that level of urgency. It is our clear view that a cyber threat can disrupt the provision of services, can disrupt our society, disable our society, even more so than can a well-placed bomb."

In testimony before the Senate, Ms Gorelick predicted that an electronic attack could come within two years, and not the next decade as previously suggested. "We will have a cyberspace equivalent of Pearl Harbor at some point," she said. "We want to have structures in place, laws in place and relationships with the private sector in place."

The private sector, responsible for building much of the information technology, is deemed critical if the US Government is to have any hope of success. The commission must also resolve turf disputes over cyberspace.

John Deutch, the CIA director, has described a cyber attack as the second biggest security threat facing the United States but his department apparently is still uncertain of counter-measures. "We're really redefining the nature of threats to our national security," Ms Gorelick said. "Those definitely are changing very, very rapidly."

Britain calls for action on climate

FROM PETER CAPILLA IN GENEVA

MAJOR industrialised countries, including America and Britain, yesterday backed calls for stronger measures to combat global warming which are likely to restrict the use of coal and oil.

The move set them on a collision course with several oil and coal producing countries, which signalled that they would block further action at the United Nations Conference on the Climate Change Convention, which ends here tomorrow. China, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and nine other oil producers have announced that they do not accept the conclusions of an international panel of more than 2,000 scientists and experts. Russia and Japan are also understood to be uneasy with its findings.

The report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an official advisory body to the conference, says that human activity will warm the Earth's atmosphere by up to 3C (5.4F) over the next century. Even small, but consistent rises in average temperatures worldwide would increase drought, storms, and flooding, it said. Low-lying tropical islands and coastal zones would be submerged as sea levels rose.

European Union countries joined the American call, but were unable to overcome French reluctance to agree on a formal target. Britain, Germany and Switzerland are the only countries likely to be able to meet the current UN target in four years' time.

John Gummer, Britain's Environment Secretary, told the conference yesterday that the credibility of world governments was on the line unless they joined Britain in trying to cut greenhouse gases.

Directing his criticisms at Australia, Canada and China in particular, Mr Gummer said it was not acceptable for countries to fail to live up to the commitments they had made with the current convention. "No developed country can properly avoid action, and action now. The time for looking is past," Mr Gummer said. "The alarm bells ought to be ringing in every capital throughout the world."



Shaun Wallace, the British Olympic cyclist, trains at the Velodrome in Stone Mountain, Georgia yesterday. The cycling competition begins on Wednesday

Iranian woman for Olympics

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

AN Iranian woman will compete in the Olympic Games, which open tomorrow, for the first time since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Markswoman Lida Farman has even been given the honour of carrying the country's flag at the opening ceremony in Atlanta.

Ms Farman is the only woman in Iran's 18-strong Olympic squad, but her inclusion marks a significant victory for Iranian moderates led by President Rafsanjani over hardline religious conservatives.

By allowing a woman to compete in Atlanta, Iran also hoped to prove to its Western critics that it is more progressive than some American-backed Gulf Arab states where women and sport do not mix.

"We have to show the foreign media that Muslim women can participate in

many areas of sporting activities, provided we abide by Islamic rules which means we have to be covered," said Ms Farman, whose sport is deemed fit because shooting is regarded as the modern equivalent of archery, praised in the Koran as a desirable pastime. But Iranian television will almost certainly censor all coverage from Atlanta of women's events where athletes are likely to flaunt skimpy sporting attire.

Clinton targets Little Havanas

BY TOM RHODES

THE Cuban-American vote is traditionally Republican, relatively small but highly influential in two key states — Florida and New Jersey — that could swing the balance for President Clinton in November.

The White House decision to allow Americans to sue foreign companies trading from former assets confiscated by Fidel Castro's regime — albeit not for at least six

months — was a neat display of political footwork by Mr Clinton to target the stalwart Cuban communities in the two states.

It requires only a brief visit to Little Havana in Miami or Union City, New Jersey, to recognise the intensity of sentiment among these tightly knit Cuban enclaves where victims of the 1959 Revolution plot the downfall of Dr Castro and his Communist regime over black beans, rice and beer.

Although universal criticism for the Clinton ruling came from Republicans yesterday, there was muted praise among national Cuban groups in Miami. However, Robert Torricelli, the Democratic New Jersey congressman who supports Cuban-Americans, said: "They are very disappointed. The Castro government is weaker than it is perceived, and this was a chance to bring an end to that Government."

Civil war taboo grips Spain's historians

THE Spanish Civil War began 60 years ago today when General Francisco Franco Bahamonde, ordering his troops to rise against the Republic, began his crusade against "anarchy, communism and godlessness".

As a result of the conflict, Spain turned from being a place where, to use the words of Raymond Carr, the historian, tourists could "inspect at a modest price the customs of a provincial society", to being a country "of absorbing political interest", whose passions and bloodshed foreshadowed the war which was soon to tear Europe apart.

Yet six decades on, prime credit for transforming that shocked attention into accurate and readable history must go to a distinguished tribe of British historians and Hispanists. It is a bitter truth in Spain, but Spanish historians have failed to write their own modern history as well as those produced in "perfidious Albion".

Professor Carr, whose lucid scholarship on the causes and course of the war has nourished generations of historians, as much in Spain as in the English-speaking world, is but one of many.

The best single account of the war is still the monumental tome by Hugh Thomas, published in 1961, and more



The Spanish Civil War started 60 years ago. Up to now, British historians have chronicled the conflict better, writes Tunku Varadarajan

than a thousand pages long. Gerald Brenan's *The Spanish Labyrinth* is unsurpassed in its treatment of the social and political background of the Civil War.

Add to that the study of Franco by Brian Crozier, and the recent, controversial, biography of the *Caudillo* by Paul Preston, Professor of International History at the London School of Economics, and it seems clear that British historians appear to have swept the "Franco stakes".

But why have Spanish historians, at least until recently, failed so strikingly and why have British historians so dominated the study of modern Spanish history? One obvious answer is that British universities have an older and more polished tradition of studying other peoples than institutions elsewhere.

The study of British history in British universities is not accorded the same pre-eminence as is Spanish history in Spain's more inward-looking institutions. Compared with the many British historians

who have distinguished themselves in the study of Spain, there is not a single Spaniard of comparable stature in the field of British history.

Yet, in spite of their traditional preoccupation with the study of their own history, Spanish scholars have consistently struggled with the Civil War.

The reasons for this reticence during the Franco years were straightforward — the country's economy may have flourished under the old dictator, but intellectual inquiry certainly did not.

It was hardly surprising, at a time when universities faced political pressure and "one side of Spain" was in power, that the most objective accounts of the Civil War were written by foreigners.

Since the death of Franco, Spain has been transformed into a democracy, and has become a far less polarised society. Spanish historiography, as a result, is now coming to terms with the events of the 1930s. But there is still, it seems, a residual unwillingness to address the recent past.

As Professor Preston writes in the Civil War supplement in today's *ABC*, put together by Charles Powell, an expert in Spanish history at St Antony's College, Oxford, Spain's historians still display a "clear reluctance to publish works that could in some way reopen old wounds".

Spanish historians, however, are growing in stature, and the present crop looks set to emerge from the shadow of British historiography. Dr Powell says: "The history of Spain which will be read in the future is finally being written by a new generation of Spaniards."



Franco: his regime stifled academic works on the modern history of Spain, including the Civil War

Victim is to sue over violent film

New York: Patsy Byers, from Louisiana, who was shot and paralysed by a robber, hopes to sue the makers of the Hollywood film *Natural Born Killers* (writes Quentin Letts). She is the latest in a growing list of victims who believe the Oliver Stone film has inspired acts of wanton violence by impressionable young Americans. She was working in a shop last year when Sarah Edmondson, a young drug addict who later told police she had seen the film several times, walked in, shot her, and robbed the till.

Barred delegate protests to China

Hong Kong: One of Hong Kong's most respected public figures, banned from an academic conference in China because of her political views, presented an official complaint to Peking's highest official here (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

Elizabeth Wong, a civil servant for 25 years and a Legislative Council member, handed in her petition for Zhou Nan, the New China News Agency's director.

Fifth beach blast in Spain

Málaga: A small bomb exploded on a beach in this southern Spanish city, but there were no injuries. Police evacuated the beachfront area, which was teeming with late-night revellers after a warning. It was the fifth such device to explode in Málaga since Saturday. The Basque separatist ETA group claimed responsibility. (Reuters)

Brass banned

Oslo: A Norwegian military band soldier who protested at China's human rights policy by refusing to play his tuba for President Jiang Zemin during a visit here has been sentenced to 18 days' detention. (AP)

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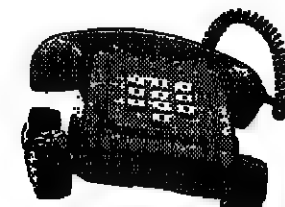
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Yeltsin picks massacre commander as Minister of Defence

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

IGOR RODIONOV, the general believed to have been responsible for the 1989 massacre of demonstrators in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, was appointed Russian Defence Minister yesterday.

The move will be received with anger in the southern former Soviet republic, with which Russia has close military ties, but was welcomed by an unusually wide range of Russian politicians, including the Communist opposition.

The first man to congratulate General Rodionov was General Aleksandr Lebed, the Secretary of the Kremlin Security Council, who served with him in Georgia and has actively backed his candidacy.

So vehemently did General Lebed speak out in support of his former patron that the issue of whether he would be appointed had become a test of President Yeltsin's commitment to his security chief. Mr Yeltsin clearly decided that it was time to make a concession to General Lebed, who had lost influence in recent days to Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister. General

Rodionov, 59, has a reputation as an intelligent and honest military man. He can be expected to set about the first assignment General Lebed gives him enthusiastically: to investigate allegations of corruption levelled against his predecessor, General Pavel Grachev. But General Rodionov's nationalist views are much more controversial.

He was a signatory to the letter, *A Word to the People*, published in *Sovetskaya Rossiya* in July 1991, subsequently interpreted as a manifesto for the attempted putsch a month later. Although General Rodionov did not take part in the abortive coup, he was closely associated with many who did.

The main task of the new minister will be to carry out the presidential decree signed in May which envisages a transition to a fully professional army by 2000. Military reform, a concept much talked about five years ago, has barely begun. Almost all branches of the armed forces are underfunded, morale is extremely low and conscrip-



General Igor Rodionov: his Cabinet role was backed by General Aleksandr Lebed, the Kremlin security chief

tion rates in some cities are as low as 20 per cent.

Colonel Vladimir Lopatin, a leading proponent of military reform in the Russian parliament, said yesterday that General Rodionov was not an ideal choice but had the advantage of being acceptable to many interest groups, and could put a stop to the ceaseless intriguing in the Defence Ministry.

"It's impossible to find a completely clean person in

current circumstances," Colonel Lopatin said. "But the first two attributes demanded here are professionalism and honesty. At least there will be a move now from a fight over the post of minister to a beginning of real reform."

However, in the minds of Russian liberals and Georgians General Rodionov's name will forever be associated with the bloody events of April 9, 1989, when 20 un-

armed demonstrators, mostly women, were killed in Tbilisi by Soviet troops under his command. The deaths aroused a wave of protest and General Rodionov was moved from commanding Soviet forces in the Caucasus to become head of the Academy of the General Staff.

In his memoirs, General Lebed says the responsibility for the Tbilisi killings lay with Dzhangar Patashvili, the

local Communist Party chief. "General Rodionov is one of the most intelligent and best educated generals in the Soviet, and now the Russian, army," he wrote. "He is an intellectual and a man of honour. His authority and the respect for him were enormous, but... with the system at that period... he had no chance to prevail over the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Georgia."

New rand crisis takes gloss off Mandela return

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA arrived back home yesterday to a sharp dose of reality in the shape of a new currency crisis and the second biggest one-day fall that the Johannesburg Stock Exchange has seen.

Before Mr Mandela's visit to London, the rand stood at R6.70 to the pound, having dropped 17 per cent on a trade-weighted basis since February. Unnerved by the fall, the Government has since issued an economic plan in which it announced its determination to defend the rand. However, while Mr Mandela was appealing in London and Paris for more investment in South Africa, the rate fell to R6.86. Yesterday it reached R6.90 before recovering to R6.77 thanks to Reserve Bank intervention. This prompted talks between Chris Stals, the bank's Governor, and Trevor Manuel, the Finance Minister, who said he saw no reason for the further fall.

The Johannesburg financial community is watching warily to see what the practical results of Mr Mandela's trip will be. The President was particularly warm about the promises made to him in Paris, declaring that his visit had been "successful beyond our wildest dreams". He had also, he said, won President Chirac's support for the writing-off of all Africa's debts — which were caused, he said, "by the imperial powers".

There is some scepticism as to whether this really represents French views, although South Africa's situation would

be wonderfully improved by a write-off of its large debts. But there is no doubting French determination to move into the South African market. In just three years, French investment has doubled.

The larger problem thrown up by the rand's fall is that South Africa is far too dependent on hot money attracted by its 15 per cent real interest rate, which is simultaneously throttling economic activity. Yet to drop the rate would not only cause a large capital outflow but would probably cause the rand to fall further.

Most analysts believe the Government will need to abolish exchange control before it can attract large-scale investment, but with the country's foreign reserves all but gone it is difficult to see how such an operation could be managed without International Monetary Fund support. However, an IMF deal would be deeply unpopular with the African National Congress.

Business circles are watching Mr Mandela like a hawk, aware that he often returns from his overseas trips impressed by what foreign businessmen have told him and with a fresh impetus towards more liberal economic policies. The President's already sky-high popularity has been increased still further by his triumphal tour. Few doubt that he returns with the moral authority to force through exchange control abolition, privatisation, or even a deal with the IMF, if that is what he decides upon.

Israel at a halt as public-service strikers challenge budget cuts

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL virtually ground to a halt yesterday as 400,000 public-service workers staged a ten-hour general strike against the right-wing Government's proposed budget cuts.

Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, said the strike would do "irreparable damage" to national security. Right-wingers said it was

politically motivated since the giant Histadrut trade union federation is controlled by the Labour Party, was one of the biggest seen in years.

The Cabinet of Benjamin Netanyahu, committed to a sweeping privatisation programme, finds itself in a economic crisis, compounded by a huge 15 per cent fall on the Tel Aviv Stock Market.

The stock exchange was one of many organisations forced to close.

The strike affected hospitals, postal services, banks, broadcast services, ports and airports. Museums and day-care centres had to shut.

Thousands of members of Histadrut converged on the Knesset, where they chanted slogans abusing Mr Netanyahu from behind a wall of security men. Referring to the Prime Minister's widely-criticised decision to take his two children in a specially fitted air force plane on his

recent trip to Washington, Ilana Cohen, leader of Israel's main nursing union, said the angry crowd should tell Mr Netanyahu "that our children too want to fly, to go to museums and go to the theatre".

A sea of banners accused the Government of hitting the low-paid with its programme of cuts which will put up bus fares and medical costs and slash child-care allowances. Ms Cohen said: "It is about

time the Government realises we are not the country's piggy bank. Every time their coffers are low, they come to the workers and take money."

The right-wing *Jerusalem Post* said the strike would only inconvenience the weak and the elderly.

The Government is also planning to scale down pension plans for civil servants, reduce certain payments to career military officers and reduce spending in the public sector.

Harare recalls diplomat

FROM MICHAEL HARTNACK IN HARARE

A ZIMBABWEAN diplomat who twice claimed diplomatic immunity after driving under the influence of alcohol in London has been recalled.

The Zimbabwe Foreign Affairs Ministry summoned back Charles Mayengebama, 33, the First Secretary at its High Commission in the

Strand, after two brushes with police for drink-driving and not having valid insurance.

"As he walked out of the police station a second time he passed someone else who was pulled in for drinking and driving and he laughed. We were furious but our hands were tied," a police source was reported to have said. Mr Mayengebama has been given new duties in Harare.

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Chirac's army cuts branded worse than Waterloo

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

A QUARTER of regiments are to be disbanded as French defence forces undergo sweeping changes that will lead to a British-style professional army, the Government announced yesterday.

The news provoked dismay in provincial towns which stand to lose military bases, concern across the political spectrum, and anger in Germany, where 11 French regiments are to be wound up.

Jacques Baumel, a Gaullist deputy, said Charles Millon, the Defence Minister, was "going further than Monsieur Wellington, who cost us 32 regiments at Waterloo".

The Defence Ministry said the reforms were the first step towards the abolition of military service and the creation of a smaller and more efficient army. President Chirac said in February that he wanted to end conscription by 2002, reducing the number of servicemen and women from 500,000 to 350,000 over the same period. The British defence forces would serve as a model, he said.

With the French Army bearing the brunt of cuts, the death of long-standing and cherished units was inevitable, according to government sources. M. Millon told the National Assembly that 38 regiments would be disbanded before the end of the century. Three air force bases would be closed and 13 naval

vessels, including the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau*, would be laid up. The Government hopes the cuts will save up to Fr20 billion (£2.5 billion) a year at a time when France is trying to reduce its budgetary deficits to meet the Maastricht criteria to join the European single currency.

M. Millon said: "It is clear that all these reforms will be accompanied by measures to reorganise the army, financially or socially. There will be compensation everywhere." More than Fr2 billion will be set aside to help towns that lose regiments. M. Chirac promises that the Government will create new jobs and activities there.

Last night there was widespread concern over the effects of the shake-up. In Normandy, for instance, André Rufenacht, president of the regional council and a member of M. Chirac's Gaullist movement, demanded additional funds to help overcome the loss of two regiments comprising 2,100 conscripts. His call was taken up by mayors and council leaders across the country.

The worry extended to political and military circles. General Marcel Bigeard, a Vietnam War hero and possibly the country's most popular soldier, said he was "sick at heart" to learn that the 6th Parachute Regiment in which he served would be disbanded.

"This regiment paid dearly in Indochina and suffered a lot in Algeria," he said.

M. Baumel, an expert on defence matters, said: "It is an audacious gamble to think that France will be able to get by with 136,000 professional soldiers, arms that have been limited and savings of Fr20 billion when M. Chirac does not know what state the world will be in in ten or 15 years time."

The French Army will be much smaller than the German Army. In five or six years, we will have 400 tanks and the Germans will have 3,000," he added.

The controversy has also spread across the Rhine, where the German press is claiming that Bonn was not consulted before the cuts were announced. Paris presented Germany with a fait accompli. German newspapers quoted officials as saying: "With up to 11 of the 16 French regiments stationed in Germany set to be disbanded, many of France's 18,000 soldiers and 14,000 civilian staff are likely to be sent home."

Under the shake-up, the ten-month conscription served by all Frenchmen will be replaced by "citizen encounters", with 18-year-olds of both sexes spending a week learning a yet-to-be-specified agenda designed to make them better members of the community. M. Chirac has said.



Fading glory: the seafront at Cannes, before ugly development and high prices drove the French crowds away

French abandon the costly Cote d'Azur

BY ADAM SAGE

HIGH prices, crowded beaches, ugly concrete buildings and a reputation for discourtesy have driven the French away from the once-fashionable Côte d'Azur, according to new statistics.

The beaches that gave the world topless bathing are less popular with Gallie holidaymakers than such frumpy regions as Brittany and the Atlantic coast.

The National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies reported that fewer than 10

per cent of French tourists visited the Côte d'Azur last year, compared with 13 per cent a decade ago, when it was the still the most popular destination.

André Rauch, professor of history at Strasbourg University, said yesterday the cost of holidaying on the Riviera lay behind its decline. "Everything changed with the recession. The Côte d'Azur is expensive and people want cheaper regions."

He was referring to prices of £2 for a cup of coffee, up to £4 for a soft drink and at least

£10 for a day on one of the private beaches. The stars may still flock south, but few ordinary people want to pay £400 for a week in a small self-catering flat in Nice.

Nor is money the only factor. Traffic jams, noise and a remorselessly urban landscape are other reasons for avoiding the Riviera, according to tourist board officials. Holidaymakers also complain that the Côte's restaurants and hotels are among the rudest in France, and that its drivers are among the most aggressive. The main benefit-

diary of the Riviera's decline is Brittany. With just one in five Gallie families heading abroad for their holidays, France's Celtic peninsula is flourishing, attracting 16 per cent of the country's tourists.

All, however, is not lost for the Côte d'Azur. The French may snub it but wealthy foreigners are still attracted by the snob value. It has become popular, for instance, among the Russian bourgeoisie: this year 30,000 Russians are expected to visit the town that boasts a Boulevard Tzarévitch.

Mafia raid uncovers anti-tank rockets

BY FRANCESCO BONGARRA

ITALIAN police yesterday uncovered a huge Mafia arms cache in Sicily. The hoard, in an underground bunker in a field owned by a Palermo hospital, included three anti-tank missiles, eight automatic rifles and explosives.

Police said they were tipped off about the arms by an unnamed Mafia informer, who is on trial for alleged involvement in the murder of Giovanni Falcone, the anti-Mafia judge killed with four other people in a motorway bombing in the summer of 1992.

Investigators believe that the arms were stored by the Madonia family, one of the dominant Mafia clans in the Palermo area.

The hoard also included three anti-tank rockets, handguns and about 30lb of Semtex. The same type of explosive was used by the Mafia in the killings of Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, another judge who was assassinated the same year, and the bombings at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence and the Church of San Giorgio al Velabro in Rome three years ago. All the guns were stored in plastic containers.

"We found enough guns and explosives in the bunker to shoot down a helicopter or to destroy a group of bullet-proof cars like those which are used to protect judges from Mafia road attacks," Pippo Micalizio, the deputy head of the anti-Mafia special squad, said.

Euro MPs agree to declare all pay and gifts

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN STRASBOURG

AFTER six years of arguing, the European Parliament yesterday laid down rules to force MEPs to declare the gifts and other income they receive.

The great majority of the 626 members approved two plans to clean up their finances, an exercise deemed urgent in light of the public image of the Parliament as a "grave train" and the tougher approach to

sleaze in European Union states. The new rules require MEPs to make a public annual declaration of all their paid activities. They must also declare any gifts in cash or kind and promise not to accept any that they do not declare. Regulations which take effect in the autumn will also force lobbyists to register their activities.

The new requirement for a register of lobbyists was drafted by Glyn Ford, a British Labour MEP. Some 10,000 lobbyists operate in Brussels and Strasbourg,

working to influence the Commission and Parliament. A number of MEPs, soon to be publicly identified, benefit from the services of staff fully paid by private interests, enabling them to save on the already generous allowances provided.

Under the new regulations, a committee will decide what gifts are acceptable. MEPs were generally pleased they now had some rules. "This text is better than the vacuum we have now," said Elisabeth Guigou, the French Socialist.

Vichy man dies in jail

Paris: Paul Touvier, 81, the only Frenchman convicted of crimes against humanity for his role in the massacre of Jews during the Second World War, has died in prison (Adam Sage writes).

The former Vichy militia-man, who had cancer, was jailed for life in 1994.

Grave yields 100 Muslim victims

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN CERSKA

WAR crimes investigators exhuming a mass grave site at Cerska, eastern Bosnia, have found almost double the number of bodies they had anticipated when they started work last week.

By yesterday, the Physicians for Human Rights team had

removed more than 100 bodies. Up to 30 more are believed to be still buried here.

"These are defenceless victims, killed and disposed of, buried and left, but not forgotten," said William Haglund, the American doctor leading the dig. Pointing to a small ledge of compacted bodies inside the grave, he said: "That's just where a bundle of

them fell on top of one another ... there could be another 15 to 20 there alone." The 15 experts expect to finish work at Cerska today.

All the dead were Muslims, captured and killed by Bosnian Serbs when they fled Srebrenica a year ago. Hired Serb labourers have failed to turn up for work after digging for just two days last week.



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I'm revolted by lager louts

You arrive at Simon Nye's West End flat on an airless summer afternoon and are offered not lager, as you hoped and expected, but a cup of tea. The flat is similarly conventional: spare and tidy, rather than awash with empty cans and discarded take-away cartons. It is where he comes to escape the "noisy loveliness" of his baby daughter, Katya, of whom he speaks with a kind of rapture. It is also where he writes *Men Behaving Badly*, the show that has done so much to inspire a new generation of lager louts and which this week was denounced by a senior Conservative MP as an insult to the nation.

Nye lives in a large five-bedroom house on the fringes of Hampstead Heath with his partner of four years, Claudia. She is about to give birth to their second child, and he is fretting. That they are unmarried is the "only unconventional thing" in his life, he says. "I'm not opposed to the idea of marriage. In fact, I think it's a very good idea, especially if you are bringing up children. It's just that I'm mild Church of England and Claudia is an atheist, and we are happy with the way things are. My own upbringing in Sussex was secure and comfortably middle class (he went to grammar school and studied French and German at London University) but Claudia's parents separated when she was young and that affected her."

Nye is small and neat. There are pockets of tiredness under each eye, and his receding hair is tuffly unkempt. But this has more to do with anxiety over Claudia's pregnancy — and that their house is undergoing extensive redecoration — than with any late-night debauchery.

"I'm afraid I lead a disarmingly quiet life," he says, with an air of resigned apology. He did once return home drunk after an evening out with the actor and star of *Men Behaving Badly*, Martin Clunes, only to discover that Claudia had gone into labour. "But that episode was so rare as to be almost laughable." And he

The creator of *Men Behaving Badly* tells Jason Cowley that the award-winning show does not reflect his own feelings

still had time to get her safely to hospital.

Unlike his deluded, blundering characters, Gary and Tony, deriving a vicarious pleasure from crude self-conscious confessions of male embarrassment, Nye has never shared a flat with another single man; for many years he shared a large house in Camden Town with five women. This experience, as much as anything else, is the inspiration for *Men Behaving Badly*.

Men Behaving Badly is the most popular light-entertainment programme on television, with weekly viewing figures approaching 12 million. Not since *The Good Life* in the 1970s, with its Cold War and ecological anxieties, or *The Young Ones*, with its mould-breaking celebration of libertarianism at the high point of Thatcherism, has a situation comedy so completely tapped into the mood of the country. The title, with its

women," wrote the critic Stuart Jeffries in *The Guardian*. Conservative MP Sir Patrick Cormack, campaigning for a reduction in violence and unsocial behaviour on television, describes it as "loutish and unedifying." It portrays people almost as heroes who are the very opposite of that. The characters are conducting their lives in a way that no child should admire."

More damaging, perhaps, are the views of Elaine Showalter, Professor of Literature at Princeton University and television critic of the mass-circulation *People* magazine. She is astonished that the format of the show has been sold to American television.

While Nye is excited at how easily his scripts and ideas have been adapted for an American audience, Professor Showalter is convinced that it will fail. "I don't think Nye's writing is fresh or sharp enough. The characters are stereotypes, the jokes predictable. The format of the show also seems tired. There have been a lot of shows along similar lines in the States."

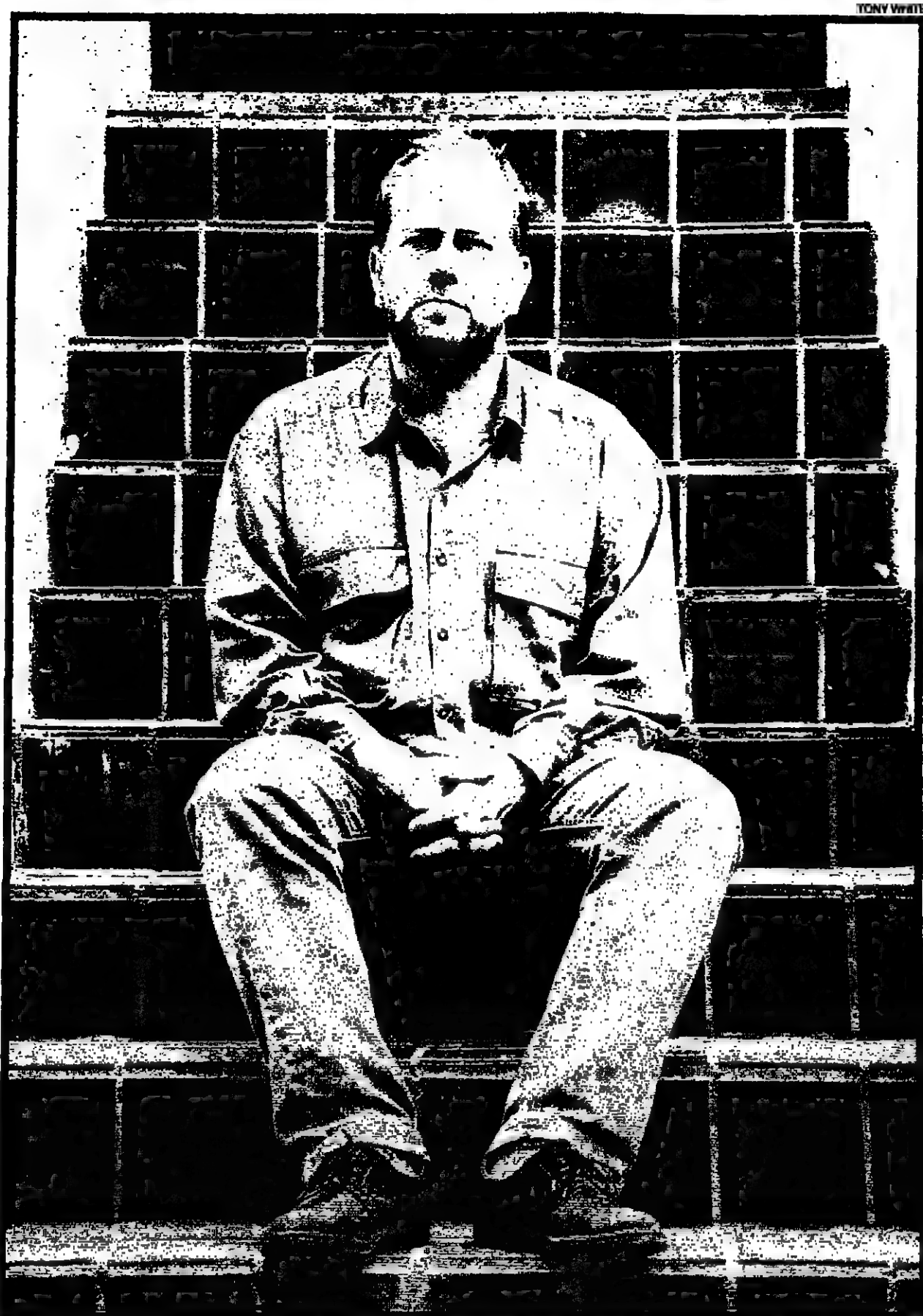
"The best and most successful American sitcoms like *Friends* and *Seinfeld* are superbly written; each episode usually has three plot-lines that are brought together in the most ingenious way. But such subtlety is beyond Nye."

Nye is perplexed rather than unsettled by such remarks. "I feel I've had a lot of undeserved flak thrown at me by people who assume that the show is sexist, or that I want to encourage lager drinking on a mass scale. It isn't and I don't. The whole point of the title is that it is ironic. The male characters are obviously pathetic."

"From a technical point of view, I thought it would be amusing to have characters, whether they were men or women, who said what they wanted without caring if it was nonsense."

Men Behaving Badly began as a "rather dark and bleak" novel. Nye, now 37, wrote the book in his mid-twenties while working in theatre box-offices in London, "because dialogue between men is a separate language and I thought I could capture it."

After the initial gurgles of interest, the novel slipped out of print. (Nye still hasn't earned his modest £2,500 advance.) It owes its radiant afterlife to the veteran television producer Beryl Vertue, who read the book and asked Nye to develop it as a sitcom. At the time, he was working as a translator at Crédit Suisse, wrestling with language in the "same way I do now — only there were fewer gags in the bank's annual report". He never dreamt he could write for television: "I always



Simon Nye, who once came home drunk, is eager to dissociate himself from the worst excesses of his characters



Tony and Gary have made it hip to be young and vulgar

"I don't think the show is as much about men as people imagine. It's more about two people of the same sex sharing a flat. It's fun writing about the differences between the sexes, but it could just as easily have been women pointing out the differences. The lifestyles of single-sex couples are pretty similar."

fashionable fondness for the present participle, has been borrowed and adapted by countless headline-writers. An entire culture of boozey, blokeish celebration, from the lads' magazine *Loaded* to the BBC's *Fantasy Football League*, has sprung up around the show. Suddenly it is hip to be young, male and vulgar. Although delighted with his success, Nye is eager to dissociate himself from the worst excesses of his characters — perhaps too anxious. "I'm worried that people think I've started some kind of movement because if I'd known that I was writing a show that was to define the spirit of the age, I would have written a different kind of show, or at least I would have thought more about what I was doing. I've no wish to see the streets full of lager louts. The thought revolts me."

Hostility to the show is growing. "I hate *Men Behaving Badly* because it is sexist... and reminds some men of their happiest times, the times when they were without

thought that I would work in a long medium such as a novel."

For one whose scripts revolve around jokes about burping, masturbation, underwear and pornography, it comes as a surprise to hear Nye expressing concern at what he considers to be the celebration of the trivial.

"There's an awful fear of seriousness in this country.

This grows out of a feeling that the serious people, namely the politicians, have let us down. But I suppose I can't really criticise them, since I contribute to this culture of frivolity."

After those early years of struggle and drift, he is enjoying his wealth. But money is not his exclusive motivation. "Once you have a certain amount of money you can't

really need anymore, except, I suppose, to give it away. What I've learnt is to appreciate success without being smug about it. It's difficult enough to get a show on television, let alone sustain it during those early episodes, when people don't know what it's all about. So you might as well have a laugh and enjoy your fame while it lasts."

INSIDE SECTION
Uma Thurman's new comedy and the week's other films. Review: page 31

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Digital rejection is replacing the 'Dear John' letter

IT WAS to be the greatest day of Richard Heyman's life. He and his girlfriend Susie had finally decided to get married after almost seven years together. Their reception was to be held in City Hall, San Francisco, their honeymoon in the Napa Valley, the wine-rich region of California. Then he received an e-mail message from Susie and his world fragmented.

"She said she didn't have the courage to face me, that she didn't want to get married, and that she was going to spend the rest of her life in Belfast," he recalled. "I couldn't believe that after six-and-a-half years she ended our relationship by e-mail."

The critic Stuart Burrows was staying with Richard Heyman. "I've never seen a man so devastated," he says. "I think it was the nature of his rejection that hit hardest."

Mr Heyman and Susie met while they were students at the University of California at Los Angeles. They started living together within three months. After graduation they travelled and finally settled in Virginia. "While Susie studied for her masters at Virginia University, I

Jilted by an e-mail

waited on tables, trying to sort out my life," he said.

Mr Heyman returned to full-time education in Boston, Massachusetts, after Susie moved to Belfast to study Irish politics in the autumn of 1992. "My emotions were mixed when she moved to Ireland: I was delighted for her that she was going abroad but saddened that I would see less of her," he said.

It was during her second year in Belfast that he proposed. They had developed a strange electronic intimacy over the wire during the time they were apart. "It was like a ritual. I would walk to the university library every morning to see if she had sent me something."

Susie's e-mails were long, well-crafted and emotionally charged. "During her time in Belfast, we spoke most openly

to each other via e-mail, even though we talked regularly on the phone. An e-mail feels more private than a phone call. Because it is written you can say things you would never say on the phone."

"Because electronic mail can be written and sent so quickly you don't always realise what you have done until it is too late."

The e-mail that ended the relationship ran to four pages. "It was intimate and emotional. I have often wondered if she would have sent it if she had written it as a letter."

"AFTER I received it I just lay around all day. Then I started doing things like crossing the road without looking. I didn't care what happened to me."

Electronic mail is already the most convenient communications tool available to anyone with a personal computer; in time, digital rejection will be as common as receiving a brush-off in the post. That is small consolation to Mr Heyman. But after two years of misery, he says he is rebuilding his life.

JASON COWLEY

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Clarke must live within our means

John Redwood says Britain cannot afford this Chancellor

Thank heavens for kids having fun at the Treasury. I do not agree with all their conclusions, but I do think we need to take action to curb the Government's appetite for our money. When the Cabinet meets today, it should revise the spending plans down for next year.

In 1964, total public spending was £10.9 billion. By 1979 it had reached £72 billion. Margaret Thatcher took public spending above the £100 billion level for the first time. John Major took it past £200 billion, and now it is above £300 billion. Every year we have heard of cuts. Every year spending has gone up. When it comes to public services, nobody can say the Conservatives have been shy with other people's money.

Two important changes in the 1980s checked the speed of the ascent. The first was privatisation. Some £65 billion has been brought in from selling assets. Huge nationalised industry losses have been transformed into profits and tax receipts for the Treasury. The second was pension reform. Pegging the standard retirement pension to prices rather than wages has now saved billions each year. Soon big savings will come from the changes made to the State Earnings Related Pension scheme, without which taxes would now be a lot higher.

Last week the Government put public spending up by £2,100 million — another penny on income tax. This was little noticed, and not debated in Cabinet. But there it is in the summer forecast: £400 million more on cyclical social security, at a time when unemployment is falling; £500 million less from sale of assets; £1,000 million more of debt interest and £200 million more of "accounting adjustments". I hear no cheers from the backbenches. This was just another of those unwanted tax increases that no one mentions and few can explain.

We now spend more on paying interest than we spend on defending the country. In the first five financial years of this decade, the nation borrowed more than £150 billion extra, an additional mortgage for every person in the country of almost £3,000. The country cannot afford the £13,500 million increase proposed for public spending next year.

The Chancellor's European policy and his tax policy are converging. The EU has been warned by the EU that we cannot afford any tax reductions because our borrowing is too high for entry into the single currency in 1998. The Chancellor has warned us not to expect tax cuts, and has arranged his figures for economic growth so that he just scrapes under the European borrowing wire next year. But can he achieve the fast growth he is promising for 1997-8 without tax cuts? Hasn't the EU yet noticed that its hair-shirt and high public spending policies are causing mass unemployment and slow growth on the Continent?

It is time to produce a programme of reductions in spending, some immediate, some medium and long-term. Immediate reductions are not as difficult as is imagined.

Look at just one of the larger departments, the Department of the Environment. Does it really need 5,000 staff and a further 17,601 in sponsored bodies? Do we need to spend £277 million this year just running the department? A staff freeze and a reduction in office space would be a good start. Let's close the regional offices, with their 1,000 departmental staff, and save all their office accommodation. The Housing Corporation and Housing Associations receive more than £1,300 million a year in grant to help them to build new homes. Given that the taxpayer underwrites the rents paid to them, through housing benefit, it is difficult to see why they need a taxpayer grant at all. Certainly the grant rate could be halved, saving £500 million.

The department is still running businesses it need not run. Why, for example, does it run a map printing business and the canal system? British Waterways Board and Ordnance Survey should be privatised. This would save £55 million a year, even if they were simply given away. In practice they could be given away with some kind of profit share or success fee coming back to the Government. The £1,400 million "single regeneration" budget can also be reduced, with more reliance on private capital. The Urban Development Corporation is coming to the end of their lives. They do not need £200 million a year. £200 million could be saved in this overall area. That is £800 million of savings from just one department.

In the longer term we need to control the mighty costs of social security. We should learn from the success with pensions from the 1980s. It is wrong to take away people's entitlements when they need them or have contributed to them. It is easier to take away future entitlements, for which people have not paid or which might not be needed. We should concentrate on the area of means-tested benefits to the elderly. Too many people still retire without a decent second pension from their employer or savings. The Government should adjust the rules to ensure that many more elderly save for part of their working lives.

The Chancellor must tell the EU that trying to meet its targets when unemployment is rising is a high and impossible task. Unemployment can bankrupt a social security system if it is allowed to get out of control, as it has on the Continent. It did our system great damage when we were in the exchange-rate mechanism. We need European policies which put jobs first. Cutting deficits by cutting spending alone may put more strain on the unemployment figures. Cutting deficits by letting the economy grow faster and by cutting tax rates is a better recipe. There are sensible reductions to make in public spending so we can cut tax rates. Then the economy will grow faster, and the deficit will reduce more quickly. The British method can give you a virtuous circle. Maastricht has given Europe a vicious one.



The eve of the Twelfth of July in Drumcree, Northern Ireland. Religious leaders should bring the people together where politician have failed

Reconcile or perish

Great religions all preach humility, but are the Irish people listening?

Last weekend I had hoped to attend a conference to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Moral Re-armament, at Caux in Switzerland. I have never belonged to that movement, but over the years I have come to respect its work for reconciliation and its hospitality to different faiths. Unfortunately I was not able to go — I was sitting at home successfully swallowing antibiotics against London's latest common infection. My two younger daughters went instead, and were able to listen to the Dalai Lama, to Cardinal Franz König, who is now 91 but still a great religious teacher, and to Rabbi Dr Marc Gopin, who is professor of religion and conflict resolution at George Mason University, Washington DC.

If only the Chinese could learn to love Tibetan Buddhism in the way the Dalai Lama loves the world, one of the most tragic of conflicts would be resolved. During his address, a characteristic moment in the Dalai Lama's teaching occurred. A little boy, perhaps two years old, got loose from his parents and climbed up to the table from which the Dalai Lama was speaking. The Dalai Lama bent down to talk to the child and offered him a glass of water; the infant responded by seizing hold of one of the Dalai Lama's sandals and chucking it into the audience. The Dalai Lama collapsed in one of his contagious fits of giggles. He is a Christ-like figure, not only in this comparison with Christ saying, "suffer little children to come unto me", or in his universal love for human kind — including the Chinese — but in the suffering he has experienced.

Meanwhile, I was at home, watching Nelson Mandela's visit and the dreadful unfolding of events in Northern Ireland. Some people rightly observed that what Northern Ireland needed was a Nelson Mandela, a great reconciler. The need for reconciliation was also the central message at Caux. The Dalai Lama said that "this century has been a century of war, of bloodshed. The next should be a century of dialogue... We have to treat the whole of humanity as one... Individual entities should be respected in all their variety, and the multiplicity of religions should be a source of enrichment — just as we enjoy variety in food dishes". Reconciliation does indeed require this liberal pluralism of approach.

He had four specific proposals for dialogue between faiths: to have exchanges between theologians of dif-

ferent traditions, to organise meetings between practising believers, to pray — or be silent — together in the holy places of the different traditions, and to bring together religious leaders, as the Pope has done at Assisi. Rabbi Gopin, whom my daughters found particularly impressive, took up this theme. He said that "the spiritual discovery" of people of other faiths is "the greatest challenge of the 21st century. Some will see this as a threat to identity, others will see this as a completion of identity — the discovery of lost cousins and their worlds. The essence is humility." He went on to quote a saying of Mahatma Gandhi: "The searcher after truth should be humble than the dust. This is the key to the discovery of others, and to peace-making."

A Buddhist, a Jew and a Hindu all advocate the doctrine of reconciliation through humility, which is plainly also the Christian response. As I listened last weekend to the voices discussing Northern Ireland, voices which were only too often angry, self-righteous, self-serving, I felt that this Christian response was largely missing. I would make an exception of the English voice. What ever mistakes of policy may have been made, there did seem to be a genuine humility in the low-key sense of reason expressed by John Major and Michael Ancram. That certainly won my respect, but perhaps that is because I am English.

I am also a Roman Catholic. I do not think any Roman Catholic examining his conscience can feel that the Church has done enough to achieve reconciliation in Northern Ireland. Despite the Pope's visit, now a long time ago, there has been nothing like Pope John Paul II's great work for reconciliation in Eastern Europe. The Catholic Church in England has seemed to be split between a certain sense of its Englishness and a certain solidarity with Irish Catholics, though not at all with the terrorists in Armagh, and only to a lesser extent in Rome, there has often seemed to be as great a commitment

to the leadership of the Catholic tribe as to reconciliation.

In so far as any of the Catholic communities, including the Irish-American, has half-sympathised with extreme nationalism, and therefore condoned the methods of terrorism, that is a sin against justice and peace, against all the people of Northern Ireland, Catholic and Protestant. Although the Church has consistently preached against political murder, I do not think that the Catholic responsibility for reconciliation in Northern Ireland has been kept sufficiently in the forefront of our minds.

This came out very clearly in the aftermath of the Portadown march. I regard both John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, and Cardinal Cahal Daly as good men, as men of some real wisdom and humility. Yet both reacted with anger, as though the Orange march was an inexplicable provocation which the police could easily have controlled. Yet any impartial person could see that the ending of the IRA ceasefire had created a tension in the Protestant community which was bound to find some outlet. That needed to be understood. No Catholic can pretend that what the IRA does is not also his business. There is a straight line from the IRA to Sinn Féin, from Sinn Féin to the SDLP, from the SDLP to the Dublin Government, from the Dublin Government back to Armagh and on to Washington. There was a self-righteousness about last week's response by the Irish Prime Minister and the Cardinal which failed to take into account the implication of the ending of the IRA ceasefire.

It is not for me to express the opposite side of the religious case. I think that I would have the same concern about the injustices and violence done by the Protestant to the Catholic community if I were an Anglican or any other British Protestant. Certainly as an Englishman I can make no defence of our history in the government of Ireland. Many great nations, the

William Rees-Mogg

Is Castro worth a trade war?

Mark Falcoff puts America's view of Cuba

Every small country goes to bed at night dreaming that it is big. For a Caribbean island best known for sugar, rum, beaches and the rumba, Cuba has done itself proud by provoking the most serious of recent confrontations between Europe and the United States. At issue is the Helms-Burton law, passed in March, which establishes sanctions for certain foreign businesses and their executives if they do business with the Castro regime.

President Clinton's decision this week to postpone for six months the full application of these provisions has brought a temporary respite in the nasty exchanges between Brussels, Washington and other European capitals, but yesterday the British Trade Secretary, Ian Lyle, declared that a stay of execution is not adequate. Pending repeal of the law itself, he and his European colleagues will continue to study counter-measures against the United States.

Americans find this European hysteria hard to fathom. Contrary to what *The Times* declared in an editorial two days ago, the legislation would not "expose foreign countries to American sanctions for trading with Cuba". Quite the contrary: investors from Britain or elsewhere are perfectly free to do anything they want in Cuba, except traffic in stolen property. This is a well-established principle of international law, and no longer a controversial issue even in most developing countries, which have come to understand that respect for property rights helps them even more than foreign investors.

Nor, contrary to the impression widespread in Europe, is it true that the number of American properties affected is very large. At present there are just over 100 revolutionary claims in Cuba still outstanding; it just so happens that one of them, relating to Cuba's nickel deposits, has been acquired by Sherritt International, a Canadian firm with important British participation. Another is Cuba's state telephone system, which has excited the appetites of potential investors in both Mexico and Italy. The vast majority of new investments in Cuba, largely in the hotel and tourist industries, are unaffected.

So what is the fuss about? Explaining other countries' motives is always risky, but an American may perhaps be forgiven for thinking that a confrontation with the Helms-Burton law is an easy way of scoring some political and cultural points. Despite the elaborate bureaucracies in place in Brussels and Strasbourg and the fulsome rhetoric that goes with them, people in most European countries, in my observation at least, do not feel very "European" at all. A dust-up with America over trade might be just the way to solidify Europe's fragile sense of common identity.

Americans are already familiar with this sort of thing in the case of Canada, for which Cuba (of all places) has come to serve as a touchstone of national independence and unity — both commodities otherwise in short supply there. Americans have likewise learnt to endure the same from Mexico, where solidarity with Castro is the perpetual consolation prize for the increasing surrender of economic policy choices to the International Monetary Fund and the American Treasury. Let's not forget, either, that even Franco's Spain made a point of maintaining cordial relations with Castro as the arch-anti-communist *Caudillo* himself used to chortle. It was a delicious revenge for Spain's defeat by the United States in 1898. No doubt these feelings are legitimate, but they are not likely to provoke a significant change in American law.

Cuba today is experiencing a deep economic and social crisis, due partly to the irrationalities of central planning, but even more to the end of Soviet subsidy. Castro's recent decision to sell off confiscated American assets should not be confused with a genuine recognition that his country requires thoroughgoing economic reform. Quite the contrary. The Cuban dictator is acting like the captain of a sinking ship who throws the wooden fittings of the ship into the boiler, hoping to reach the shore before the supply of fuel gives out. One bet, that the Communists would win the Russian elections, has been lost. Another hope, that European, Canadian and Mexican tourism could replace the annual \$6 billion from Moscow, is not materialising. Even a major trade dispute between Europe and America is not likely to provide resources for Castro's political survival.

Far from forcing him to become more repressive, the American embargo has introduced new pressures for him to open up the benefits of the free market to Cubans — not just to a select group of Europeans and Canadians. Once Cubans are allowed to hire other Cubans (rather than to work for foreign companies, which have in pay their salaries to the Cuban state), the island will genuinely be starting to open up, politically and economically. That is what American policy is intended to do — more. Europe ought to be supporting the policy, rather than picking a fight with the United States. In the long run it will be even better for business.

The author is resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

Clair de lune

GLYNDEBOURNES picnicers witnessed quite a performance the other night during the long interval: the festival's first "moony", a man's bare bottom displayed in protest at the exclusive diners.

Opera-goers in bib and tucker were at their hamper after emerging from the first act of *Arabella*. Michael Howard and Michael Portillo were among tuxedos delving into ice-boxes as three farmworkers appeared in a field beyond the formal lawns where picnicers assemble.

The shepherds drove up in their open-topped farm truck to the ha-

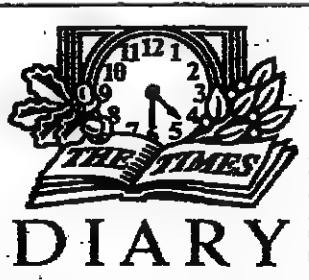
ha separating them from the opera-goers. After studying life on the other side, they turned the truck round so that their backs were facing the picnicers.

Then, before you could say *Lightning Waltz*, one of them dropped his trousers and flaunted his posteriors at the crowd. After a goodly while, he hoisted up his trousers, shot the picnicers a defiant glance and the truck drove off.

"Appalling. My strawberry stuck in my gullet," gargled one old boy. "Nobody could believe it." Another complained that she was unable afterwards to look at her pork pies in the same light.

Really you?

THE DUCHESS of York was involved in a couple of farcical identity crises on her brief trip to New York this week. Although on a diet, she popped in to an ice cream parlour in Manhattan before heading for lunch at *The New York Post*. In the parlour a woman came up to her and said, "NooYavkerish. Say, lady, anyone ever tell you that you look like that Fergie?" The Duchess: "I AM Fergie." Old biddy:



"Naaaaah!" Duchess: "But I AM. New Yorker, eyes raised heavenwards: 'Yeah, right!'"

Later, the Duchess went to a department store to do what shopping she thought her credit card could bear. At the counter were two assistants. One told the other: "It's Fergie!" Reply: "No it ain't." First assistant: "I swear, it is." It went on for some time, like a rally at Wimbledon. Finally the Duchess interrupted. "Yes, it IS me, the red head." Jaws dropped: "Er, so how can we help you, lady?"

● Ted Heath's emotions must have churned when the Martin Neary Singers stepped up to sing grace at his 80th birthday party at No 10 last night. The singers were Downing Street regulars in his day, and last night they added a frisson by crooning a special number written by Lord Armstrong.

Ted's former private secretary, and set to music by Ted's musical mentor, the late Herbert Howells.

Last Naught

JAMES NAUGHTIE is to become the unlikely hero of the flag-waving headbangers who are already queuing up to attend the Last Night of the Proms. The BBC interviewer has been appointed successor to Richard Baker, who retired last year after more than 30 years of presenting the patriotic extravaganza.

"I'm not surprised he got it," says Baker. "You just have to try to



keep your head while all around are losing theirs."

● At the end of a bruising day for the Royal Family on Monday, a conspiratorial dinner took place in the Garrick Club. All the former press secretaries to the Queen who are still alive gathered to shoot the breeze about royal affairs. Charles Anson, the present incumbent, was his usual discreet self. "An entirely social dinner — not a business occasion at all," he explained.

Or bust

URGENT MEMO to prop departments: one naked statue of Apollo needed by Sunday. After searching everywhere for a figurine without a fig leaf for her TV film *Daphne & Apollo*, producer Helen de Winter has drawn a blank, and filming starts at the weekend.

"The script concerns a young girl and her obsession with a naked statue of Apollo," she explains. "We need to find this statue." But Victorian prudery put paid to almost every one; some exist in museums and private collections but are either too valuable or too heavy to be moved to the film set. "Someone out there must have one," pleads de Winter.

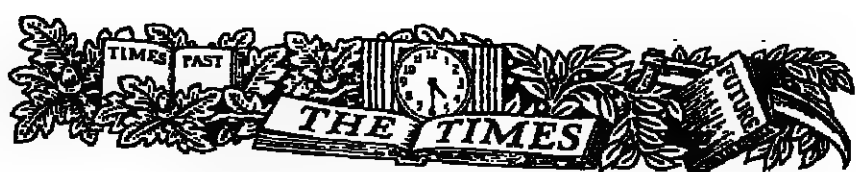
P-H-S



Just the thing for the film: but where is he now?



Veronica, dear, don't look



CRANKS AND KIDS

Politicians should be politer to their servants

The Treasury document leaked to *The Times* yesterday has been both window and mirror. *Strategic Considerations for the Treasury 2000 to 2005* has not only provided a glimpse into the thinking of Whitehall's most influential department but also reflected the instinctive attitudes of the man who presides over it and his Labour opponent. Unfortunately, in their attitudes towards those areas of the papers where the unthinkable is thought the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and his Shadow Gordon Brown display a shared depressing tendency to think the conventional.

The document is a dispassionate assessment of future trends and a thoughtful analysis of potential strategies. Mr Clarke may have dismissed its authors as "kids" but then John Maynard Keynes had finished *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* when 36. Adam Smith was a Professor at Glasgow University at 28 and Friedrich Hayek Director of the Austrian Institute for Economic Science at 25. Fresh thinking often comes best from young minds.

Unfortunately, Mr Clarke still shares the thinking current when his own mind was young — in the Seventies. Mr Clarke's reaction was conditioned by his hostility towards radical reform of welfare and significant reductions in public spending. Mr Clarke seems to regard the current high level of spending as Lord John Russell regarded the English constitution in the 1850s — an arrangement on which it would be almost impossible to improve. Mr Clarke has argued that cutting public spending to 40 per cent of national income was "the maximum that should be aimed at". Even the Prime Minister has dangled the hope that it might one day reach 35 per cent.

The Chancellor's dismissal of the proposals for a smaller state as "cranky" and his disabbling references to Newt Gingrich confirm his estrangement from the most exciting, and honest, strands in current Conservative thinking. The precise proposals canvassed in the document, not least privatising contributory benefits, may not all be appropriate for implementation at present but the goal of reducing public

expenditure is both economically necessary and morally right. That insight has been articulated by men not even Mr Clarke could call "cranky", or "kids".

Economically, the capacity of this country to compete with the Pacific nations identified by the Treasury as the pace-setters of the next century is inhibited by the size of our state. Last October Chris Patten, schooled in reality after three years as Governor of Hong Kong, argued for a reduction in public spending to nearer Asian levels. Mr Clarke's former Chief Secretary, Michael Portillo, argued in January 1992 that an "ultra-low tax economy" and consequently a smaller state would be required if the UK were to maintain a competitive advantage.

Morally, an over-mighty state inhibits the operation of individual choice. The tendency of state welfare to inculcate habits of dependency and erode virtue has been identified by thinkers on the Right such as Charles Murray and Gertrude Himmelfarb. It has also influenced the ethical socialists, Norman Dennis and Frank Field.

Mr Clarke will tell the Cabinet today that he hopes to keep public spending below the agreed ceiling of £268 billion. But even if he succeeds, as he apparently hopes, in hitting a level as much as £5 billion lower, State spending will still be £18 billion more than it was four years ago. That is hardly progress towards the size of State that Chris Patten and others think will be necessary if Britain is to prosper.

Mr Clarke was disappointing in his reaction to his own officials' imagination yesterday. But his shadow did not inspire. It may be good campaigning politics for Mr Brown to tie Mr Clarke to radical proposals which the Chancellor is disinclined and ill-equipped to defend. It is also easy to paint the realistic acceptance of rapid growth in Asian economies as "defeatism". But, perhaps months away from office, Mr Brown should look beyond scoring points. The threat from the East will require him to entertain many of the thoughts he was so quick to dismiss today. Realities may yet compel politicians to look with a kinder eye on Treasury kids and their cranky admirers.

OUR SPANISH HISTORY

Great national events are often seen best by foreigners

In the words of Sir Michael Howard, an eminent exponent of the craft, history is what we write, read and think about the past. How matters are viewed often depends on the vantage point. Although it involves the accumulation and analysis of evidence in a manner at least as rigorous as the natural sciences, history is an art and as such lends itself to competing interpretations. Indeed this is the very joy of the discipline.

Anniversaries are often occasions for such reflection. Today is the sixtieth anniversary of the start of the Spanish Civil War. Although the scars on Spanish society have still not healed, this is a time to think again about the conflict described as the dress rehearsal for World War Two, remembered for the romance of the Republican cause and symbolised in Picasso's *Guernica*.

Barely 20 years have passed since the death of General Franco, a span too short to permit cool analysis among those who lived with the legacy of that war and the following dictatorship. As a result, what is read about this period in Spain is dominated by foreign figures, most of them British. While that in part reflects the fragile state of such studies in Spain, it also says much about the British interest, some might say justified guilt, in the origins of the Second World War, and at what point, if any, Hitler might have been halted before 1939.

Civil War studies also touch upon a wider topic. While there is much to be said for nationalist accounts of history — and we support those who would restore the British emphasis to our school curriculum — it is also the case that impressive accounts of a nation can be produced by those who are not its citizens. The status that Hugh Thomas and Raymond Carr hold in Spain has many

parallels. Arguably the two best books ever written about the United States were penned in the 19th century by foreigners — Alexis de Tocqueville and James Bryce.

In Europe, too, the pattern can be seen. The work of William Shirer on the rise of Nazism in Germany and Denis Mack Smith's insights on Italy remain the masterful accounts. Robert Conquest's awesome output on the Soviet Union during the Stalin era was a much-needed antidote to some of the hagiography offered by Anglo-American apologists for the totalitarian tyrant. Modern Russia looks almost exclusively to those beyond its borders for rigorous analysis.

This country, too, has benefited from outside scrutiny. Elie Halévy's enormous volumes were not treated with much respect during his lifetime because as a Frenchman his interest was thought impish. He is now seen as offering the best detailed account of 19th-century British politics. Similarly, George Dangerfield's tome *The Strange Death of Liberal England*, written by an Englishman from the distant perspective of New York, is seen as a classic.

National history benefits from external scrutiny. Rare are those who can detach themselves from the passions that events, even of long ago, evoke. In all social studies the search for the Archimedean point is a testing one. Doubtless as the centenary of the Civil War approaches, a new generation of Spanish writers will beg to differ, perhaps sharply, from the accounts offered by Hugh Thomas and George Orwell. Revisionist views of Franco will be offered — perhaps focusing more on his contribution to defeating Hitler and asking whether he was the best of an extremely bad bunch. Thus does the wheel of understanding roll on.

SCEPTIC ISLE

A Midsummer Wight's Dream

Some may think that the devolution debate is just about a measure of self-government for Scotland and Wales. The Scots and Welsh are far behind the doughty separatists of the Isle of Wight. While Celtic devolutionists squabble over drawing-board blueprints and revenue-raising powers, the men and women guarding the white cliffs at the end of Southampton Water have been putting money where their mouths are.

The island's Liberal Democrat council recently issued an independent currency, an *écu* token which could be used in local shops. The Treasury, alas, did not see the humour in this monetary disunion and declared the scheme illegal. The councillors, surveying the struggle for self-determination across the globe, were not daunted: nudging the burghers of Ventnor out from under England's brutal yoke was always going to be slow and unrewarding work.

They are now organising the nearest thing to a referendum that does not require legislation in the House of Commons. An opinion poll is to be conducted. If the islanders are to take control of their destiny, it is only prudent that they be asked what kind of destiny they have in mind or, indeed, whether they dream of a solo destiny at all.

Destiny is of course different from distinctive character: the Isle has always stood apart. A 17th-century proverb held that it "hath no monks, lawyers or foxes". Queen Victoria and Prince Albert made it fashionable and Alfred Tennyson added tone: readers of *Tennyson's Gift*, the new novel by our distinguished television critic, Lynne Truss, will discover just how much tone.

Decorous separatism has, however, been fuelled by low living standards. The Isle of Wight has fewer top rate taxpayers than any other county and its gross domestic product lies at the foot of the table alongside South Glamorgan. The council has tried to opt for the surrogate parenthood of the EU: the Isle is twinned with three German counties; the council is opening an office in Strasbourg; garlic production has been bumped up to levels which allow exports to France.

The councillors are not dreaming of UDI but, more reasonably, of freepart tax status like the Channel Islands. They dream of high-spending honchos working in this Hong Kong-on-the-Solent taking over from the elderly, low-spending holidaymakers who buy nothing more expensive than ice cream. Holiday-makers beware: the Isle of Wight Liberation Front is there.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Changes in World Service overdue

From Sir Charles Powell

Sir, The gathering of skirts and indignation harrumphing by the Establishment over the proposed changes to the BBC World Service (letters, July 17) might lead one to suppose that Mr John Birt is attacking the very foundations of our society rather than making modest management changes to a service long overdue for reform.

As a listener to the World Service on frequent travel abroad, I recognise its great merits and the respect in which it is widely held. But like every public service, it is capable of improvement. The proposed changes do not threaten its editorial independence.

For too long the World Service has been over-protected by a high-level and influential lobby who are unreasonably opposed to change of any sort. I believe that Mr Birt's reforms will in fact strengthen the World Service in the longer term.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES POWELL,
Matheson & Co, Ltd,
3 Lombard Street, EC3,
July 17.

Risks of ID cards

From Ms Liz Parratt

Sir, The Home Affairs Select Committee's recommendation to Michael Howard that a full discussion of the implications of a voluntary national identity card scheme for civil liberties must be carried out (report, July 10) should be welcomed by anyone who cares about individual privacy. So should the many safeguards which the committee recommends to accompany a voluntary scheme.

But any ID card scheme carries risks which are impossible to eliminate through legislation. The argument favoured by proponents of such a scheme is that those who have nothing to hide have nothing to fear. This all too easily becomes extended to imply that anyone not wishing to carry a card should be the target of suspicion.

In the longer term, the inconvenience arising from the lack of a card could be considerable, with every bureaucratic and busybody demanding production of an ID card as a matter of habit rather than necessity. It would be naive to assume that such a scheme would remain voluntary for ever.

Yours sincerely,
LIZ PARRATT
(Campaigns Co-ordinator), Liberty,
21 Tabard Street, SE1,
July 10.

South Africa's future

From Professor Emeritus Kenneth Kirkwood

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("St Nelson needs our cash", July 10) might have placed more emphasis on the long-lasting damage to South African society caused by apartheid's deliberate, often malicious infliction of separate and inferior education at all levels.

Oxford University and bodies such as the Africa Educational Trust have since the early 1950s given priority to damage limitation by means of scholarships to black South Africans and much has been achieved.

Nelson Mandela himself has repeatedly paid tribute to his own education provided by missionary societies in South Africa, and by the English-medium universities.

But it is now widely acknowledged that the principles and practices of liberal education must be restored and advanced in South Africa on a non-racial basis. Mutual trust and confidence and the sharing of values, technical and professional skills and knowledge, are integral components of education that take time to permeate society. All else is in jeopardy if investment in education is inadequate.

Yours truly,
KENNETH KIRKWOOD,
St Antony's College, Oxford,
July 11.

Royal Highnesses

From Miss Clare Falvey

Sir, Like William Rees-Mogg ("Diana may get her title back in the end", July 15) I am unable to trace Johnson's particular quotation of the earliest usage of the title "Your Royal Highness". However, my *Poetical Works of Dryden* (1853) includes heroic couplets "To Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York" written "On the Memorable Victory gained by the Duke over the Hollanders, June 3, 1665", thus applicable to James II's first wife Anne, and not to his daughters.

Yours faithfully,
CLARE FALVEY,
Flat E,
165 Holland Park Avenue, W11,
July 15.

Griddle riddle

From Mrs Shelagh Hargrave

Sir, As a child I was told by my great aunt — a lady with social aspirations — that scones (rhyming with dons) were eaten with margarine while scones (rhyming with bones) were buttered.

Yours truly,
S. HARGRAVES,
133 Colcot Road, Barry, Glamorgan,
July 15.

Path to Bench for women lawyers

From Mr Ronald Goldberg

Sir, Miss Josephine Hayes, Chairwoman of the Association of Women Barristers (letter, July 12), makes a plea for steps to be taken to make work practices at the Bar more flexible and compatible with home and family life, to enable more women barristers to rise to the seniority that would enable them to be appointed to the Bench.

This plea seems unlikely to have any effect. However, may I suggest an alternative course which would be more likely to be fruitful. There are a large number of women suitable or potentially suitable for appointment to the Bench among the solicitors' profession.

The situation could be improved further if your correspondent and others of like mind applied their advocacy towards promoting a greater degree of fusion of the legal professions, whereby all lawyers would have common training and initial experience, allowing those with a particular talent for forensic advocacy later to specialise in that field.

Yours faithfully,
R. GOLDBERG
Kidd Rapinet (Solicitors),
14 & 15 Craven Street, WC2,
July 12.

From the Chairman of the General Council of the Bar

Sir, I am surprised by Miss Hayes's suggestion that women practising at the Bar and seeking appointment to the Bench or to silk look to the Bar for hope, but do not find it. On the contrary, much has been done and is being done urgently to improve the lot of women at the Bar.

An equality code, acknowledged as a trail-blazer and a leader in its field, was adopted by the Bar Council last year. It specifically recommends that clerks and heads of chambers should be flexible over working arrangements for women tenants during maternity leave and after return to work. It went out to all chambers early this year and we propose to monitor its effectiveness, not least through our two equal-opportunities officers who, as the Association of Women Barristers

Hitler plot

From Mr Richard Lamb

Sir, In 1987, writing a book which contains the evidence used by Juchira Fest on the Foreign Office's cold-shouldering of the German resistance in 1944 (letters, July 13), I dismissed the BBC's policy in the wake of the Stauffenberg plot with Hugh Carleton Greene, then editor of its German language service.

Greene told me that the Foreign Office had wanted him to be hostile to the conspirators, and he was horrified at the way they underestimated the resistance. He designed the broadcasts to the German people to encourage the opposition and emphasise their strength. There was no question of sacrificing the conspirators "to placate Stalin"; Greene only wanted to boost the resisters.

Unfortunately it turned out that the

Air traffic liaison

From Group Captain R. J. Sturman, RAF

Sir, Harvey Elliott's article on air-space sharing (Travel News, July 4) rests upon a central thesis that control of the sometimes differing needs of civil and military airspace users would be best vested solely in civilian hands. In the UK it has long been accepted that a joint activity is the most efficient and safe way of controlling those parts of the sky in which the civilian and military users come into close proximity.

It is erroneous to suggest that delays to civil aircraft in the UK are the result of military activity. Less than 9 per cent of UK airspace is segregated for military use only, the rest being either open for all to use or "controlled" by either civil or military air traffic control (ATC), or a combination of both, to sustain safety.

Different techniques have evolved for handling the large numbers of mainly civil aircraft flying in controlled airspace and the military and

(AWB) is well aware, are keen to learn of instances that contravene the code.

There are to be discussions with the Institute of Barristers' Clerks about the difficulties that women encounter in balancing work with home and families. There have been open meetings in different parts of the country involving representatives from the Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD), the Bar Council, the AWB, the Law Society and the Association of Women Solicitors specifically designed to encourage women to apply for silk and judicial appointments.

To my knowledge the LCD has also taken considerable trouble to take on board many of the concerns expressed by the AWB on the process of appointment to silk and the Bench.

I do not suggest that the major problems identified by Miss Hayes do not exist. To suggest that little or nothing is being done about them is well wide of the mark.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PENRY-DAVEY,
Chairman,

The General Council of the Bar,
3 Bedford Row, WC1,
July 12.

From Miss Christina Gorna

Sir, The excellent letter from the new Chairwoman of the Association of Women Barristers omits to mention one cogent factor.

An age limit of 50 on appointments to silk or the Bench, as is the commonly observed convention, is surely in breach of the Lord Chancellor's stated opposition to discrimination against women. Fifty is an age at which many women are at last free of domestic commitments: those of them who have survived these commitments, together with overt male discrimination and returners' syndrome, are often far more suited to a successful career at the Bar or Bench than are their younger male counterparts.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINA GORNA
(Head of Chambers),
Castle Chambers,
3 Queens Terrace, Exeter, Devon,
July 12.

BBC London broadcasts were helpful to the Gestapo in tracing members of the conspiracy, as was another broadcast from Cairo by a resister, Erich Vermeiren, who had defected from the German Embassy in Turkey. Christabel Bilenberg, one of the best known survivors of the resistance, emphasised to me how careless the British were in mentioning names in German language broadcasts, and how this endangered many of the resistance.

Your correspondent Alexander Robertson (letter, July 13) is correct. The Gestapo found a list of the projected members of the anti-Nazi Cabinet, with tragic consequences.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD LAMB
(Author, *The Ghosts of Peace*,
Michael Russell, 1987),
Knighton Manor, Broadchalke,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

lighter civilian aircraft flying outside the airways structure. Where the two controlling regimes interface there is either face-to-face liaison or effective direct co-ordination; the controllers have access to the same radar information and the same, or compatible, supporting equipment.

Close liaison is maintained at every level; in particular senior military staff regularly participate in the European forums involved with integrating ATC activities.

The UK ATC system's reputation for, to quote your article, "the highest standards in Europe" is, as many thousands of pilots will testify, founded on the long-standing joint and integrated civil/military nature of our work and is the envy of many other nations around the world. Long may it remain so.

Yours faithfully,
R. STURMAN (Acting AOC),
Headquarters,
Military Air Traffic Operations,
Hillingdon House,
Uxbridge, Middlesex,
July 9.

Regulation of press

From the Director General of the Institute of Directors

Sir, Brenda Maddox (Media and Marketing, July 3) asks whether I am aware of "the" (sic) reason why, while broadcasting is regulated, the press is not.

I am very familiar with the argument that airwaves are scarce, whereas paper isn't. I simply regard this as a quite inadequate rationale for different legal and regulatory treatment of different media.

If it is right for society to seek to maintain certain standards of behaviour through the electronic media, this must also be true of newspapers.

Yours faithfully,
TIM MELVILLE-ROSS,
Director General,
Institute of Directors,
116 Pall Mall, SW1,
July 9.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Belief, morals and Christian faith

From Baroness Platt of Writtle

Sir, For me the Christian religion's most important Commandments (letters, July 9, 11) are to love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind and all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself. The word "love" means unselfish love and consideration for others, not the erotic version. We all sin and need forgiveness in failing to carry out those Commandments to the full, but we must continually try to do better.

It seems to me that if more people were trying to obey them, including those working in the media, we should all be living in a very much happier and better community.

As one who came to a Christian faith in adult life, I remember a former vicar in our parish saying "Don't concentrate on what you do not believe. Put together the pieces of Christianity you do believe, as if it were a jigsaw, and gradually your faith will grow." I have found that to be true.

Yours sincerely,
PLATT OF WRITTE,
House of Lords,
July 9.

From Dr Michael Long

Sir, The Ten Commandments come in Exodus xii. They are issued by a deity who not long before, in Exodus xli, killed huge numbers of Egyptian children and who not long after, in Exodus xliii, promises to "blot out" (revised standard version) the people of six inconvenient nations.

The First Commandment requires worship of him and him alone. The second shows him ready to punish offences by punishing the offenders' children, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In Exodus xlii it is made clear that people who offend against the First Commandment shall be "utterly destroyed", which probably means that their spouses and children, and maybe their servants and animals too, must be stoned to death alongside the offenders themselves.

Why is this better than "moral relativism"? And how can the Archbishop want it at the core of daily worship by our schoolchildren (reports, July 6)?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LONG,
Churchill College,
Cambridge CB3 0DS,
July 11.

Colomberie House

From Mr Alan R. V. Anderson

Sir, Whether or not Sir John Soane was the architect of Colomberie House (letters, July 3, 10), a dispassionate observer would pronounce the building mean and unimpressive.

Fuss and hyperbole have been generated primarily because Jersey has retained so few gems of 18th and early 19th century architecture that a narrow but powerful climate of opinion has decreed that what is old must be preserved.

The Soane connection has been well worked to lead an old but mediocre building with undesired merit.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. V. ANDERSON,
Côtés de Rozel, Rozel, Jersey, CI,
July 11.

Poetry Olympics

From Mr Michael Horowitz

Sir, Under the heading "Poetry beaten by lack of interest", Erica Wagner reported (July 8) that the audience for our Poetry Olympics at the Royal Albert Hall on July 7 "made up for its small size by its appreciation".

By early evening, however, this audience — 500-strong at the luncheon outset — had swelled to 1,500, and at the end of the nine-hour marathon (one hour for each muse) the total attendance was 2,000-plus — a record turnout for poetry in Britain since 1965.

So in both quantity and, equally or more important, in quality, poetry could hardly be spoken of as "beaten".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOROWITZ
(Co-ordinator, Poetry Olympics
and Editor, *New Departures*),
PO Box 9819, London W11 2GQ,
July 14.

Handsome is . . .

From Mr K. A. Stagg

Sir, Both beauty and ugliness (letters, July 8, 9, 11) can be measured in minus seconds, on the one hand to make time stand still and, on the other, to stop a clock.

Yours faithfully,
K. A. STAGG,
11 The Brow,
Waterlooville, Hampshire.

From Mr David Eames

Sir, Mr Tim Daw (letter, July 8) considers the millHelen too blunt an instrument for the assessment of Sir George Gardiner's looks. He might consider the microHelen, defined as the beauty required to launch a rowing boat.

Yours faithfully,
D. EAMES,
6 Yarmouth House,
Dunley Close, Alvaston, Derby,
July 9.

OBITUARIES

CHAS CHANDLER

Chas Chandler, bass guitarist with the 1960s rock group, the Animals, died of a heart attack yesterday aged 57. He was born in Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne, on December 18, 1938.

WITH their memorable hit, *The House of the Rising Sun*, the Animals, for whom Chas Chandler played bass guitar, established themselves at the heart of the British Rhythm and Blues movement of the 1960s, which effectively "took the play away" from America in pop music terms. In the Sixties, English rock 'n' roll reigned supreme, re-importing to the United States in a tauter, tougher and altogether more realistic manner, the anodyne sentiments that had originally flowed across the Atlantic, infecting the English dance floors of the Fifties with numbers like Bill Haley's *Rock Around the Clock* and Elvis Presley's *I'm All Shook Up*.

The *House of the Rising Sun* introduced a note of social realism into this somewhat cosy romance-dominated atmosphere with its theme — life in a New Orleans bordello. Mundane as it may seem from the standpoint of the 1990s, such a theme was, at that time, revolutionary in popular music. With lead singer Bill Burdon's blood-chilling vocals and a backdrop of straining guitar accompaniment from its lead (Hilton Valentine) and bass guitarist, it seized the imagination and soared effortlessly to the No 1 spot in the British hit parade, which it occupied for a number of weeks. It had similar success in America and in a multitude of other English-speaking countries. It was extraordinary that a group from grey and chilly Tyneside should have been able so convincingly to evoke the steamy life of the American Deep South.

The effective life of the group was short. Not for them the Elder Statesmen of pop status which was to be granted to their great competitors, the Rolling Stones. They were launched in London in 1964 (though they had been a force on Tyneside for more than a year previously). By 1966 Eric Burdon, the group's dynamic lead singer, had decided that the Animals had nowhere to go, and by embarking on a solo career, brought its life to an end in 1969.

But thereafter Chandler was to have an influence on rock 'n' roll that was arguably more important than his input to the Animals had been. As an impresario and manager he had an almost unerring touch. He recognised the extraordinary talents of the American R&B guitarist Jimmy Hendrix, and was responsible for bringing him to London, where his career took off in earnest, and making him a rock 'n' roll legend. He masterminded the meta-



Chas Chandler, right, with Hilton Valentine, 1964

morphosis of Slade from a nondescript club band to one of the more startling pop phenomena of the early Seventies. Only recently he had founded the Newcastle Arena, Tyneside's answer to the Wembley pop venue.

Chas Chandler was born Bryan James Chandler in a suburb of Newcastle. He went to school locally, but was soon drawn towards the pop music scene which, if not as famous as that developing on the other side of the Pennines in Liverpool, was remarkably healthy on Tyneside. He joined the Alan Price Combo in 1963; it took its name at that time from its organ and vocals specialist and also featured Hilton Valentine on guitar, Chandler on bass and John Steel on drums.

At that time the group's aspirations were summed up in its regular Saturday night sessions at Newcastle's Downbeat Club, and later at the rather more up-market Club A-Go-Go. By this time the group had acquired another lead singer, Eric Burdon, whose input was to prove decisive. Burdon lent a raw, "on-the-edge" quality to the group's performance. They were heard at the Club A-Go-Go by the impresario Micky Most, who immediately recognised what they had to offer. When they shortly afterwards

moved to London, the change in their name to the Animals seemed totally appropriate.

In an astonishingly short time the Animals had established themselves as one of the spearheads of the British R&B movement. In 1964 *The House of the Rising Sun*, an arrangement of a traditional folk-blues song, was voted best disc of the year by the *New Musical Express*. Yet initially EMI had been reluctant to release it at all, arguing that its 4½ minute duration was far too long for the higher echelons of the charts — to whose devotees was attributed a notoriously small concentration span.

The record sold well over a million copies in the US in addition to its success in Britain and in September 1964 the group embarked on a triumphal tour of the US. *Gonna Send You Back To Walker*, a cover of Timmy Shaw's *Gonna Send You Back To Georgia*, and *I'm Crying* were other big hits in 1964.

For another year the Animals enjoyed immense success, but tensions were already apparent. Burdon, in particular, was increasingly going his own way. Meanwhile Chandler was discovering a role as impresario. His travels abroad with the band were

spent as much in listening to other bands as in playing Animals music. He had an astute ear and was soon to develop similarly acute business skills. In a New York coffee bar he heard Jimi Hendrix playing a guitar and was convinced of his potential superstar appeal. Bringing Hendrix to London, he launched him on a career that was to make him a legend (a legend made the more poignant in the pop world's eyes from Hendrix's early drug, and drink-induced *fofo de sei*).

The glam-rock band Slade (who were anything but glam until Chandler reshaped their image) was another of his successes. Altogether he could claim 67 Top Ten hits, either with the Animals or from bands he had managed.

Chandler, a giant of a man, had a high reputation as a rock manager, and was known to be aggressively protective of his clients. His most recent venture, on his native Tyneside, to which he had moved back after a quarter of a century in London, was the Newcastle Arena, a 10,000-seat entertainment and sports centre.

Chandler is survived by his wife Madeleine, a former Miss UK, by their son and two daughters, and by a son from a previous marriage.

ALAN McGILVRAY

Alan McGilvray, MBE, Australian cricket commentator, died in Sydney on July 17 aged 85. He was born there on December 6, 1910.



FOR more than 30 years, from the mid-1950s until his retirement in 1985, Alan McGilvray was the voice of Australian cricket. His style at the microphone, and away from it, was precise and restrained. There were no crescendos, even though his commitment to the Australian cause was absolute. If he was on the air when the Ashes changed hands, he remained ostensibly dispassionate, merely lighting another cigarette and allowing himself an extra twitch or two of his upper lip.

Alan David McGilvray was one of four children of a Sydney shoemaker. Upon leaving Sydney Grammar School he worked in the family business, which gave him ample time for cricket. A left-handed opening batsman, right arm medium-paced bowler and good close-to-the-wicket fielder, he played 20 matches for New South Wales, some of them as captain.

But it was as a broadcaster that he saw his chance of making a name for himself. When Don Bradman's Australians came to England in 1938, McGilvray was closely involved with the synthetic coverage of the tour by a commercial broadcasting station back in Australia. Details of every ball in the Test matches were instantly cabled to a studio in Sydney, where they were built into a running commentary with sound effects to simulate wood on willow.

McGilvray came into his own after the Second World War, in which he served with the First Australian Armoured Division in Australia. For a while Victor Richardson (a former Australian captain), Jack Fingleton, A. G. Moyes, Bernie Kerr and Michael Charlton were all better known to cricket listeners

around the world. But once McGilvray became established, the soft hue of his commentaries, his knowledge of the game and its players, his lack of bias, his regard for tradition and particularly his defining but inoffensive Australian accent made him a universal favourite. He went on to cover numerous overseas tours for the Australian Broadcasting Commission, ten of them to England, and to report on more than 200 Test matches. His retirement season became as much a lap of honour round Australia as did that of his more romantic counterparts, John Arlott, round England.

The title of one of the books published as a tribute to Brian Johnston, *Summers Will Never Be The Same*, was taken, in fact, from McGilvray's final summation-up, in a ghosted work called *The Game Is Not The Same*. One of the ABC's

gambits during the Packer revolution had been constantly to repeat that "the game is not the same without McGilvray", a reference to the fact that the World Series cricket matches were being played in isolation, or at any rate without any official imprimatur.

That was the measure of the fame and popularity which McGilvray enjoyed in Australia. As a colleague in the broadcasting box he could be sensitive, not to say touchy; but listeners never knew that, and a drink at the end of play, invariably smoothed any ruffled feathers.

McGilvray was appointed MBE in 1974 and received the Advance Australia Award in 1985 for his "outstanding contribution to Australian broadcasting". He married, in 1936, Gwendolyn Griffith, who predeceased him. They had a son and daughter.

LILIAN STACEY

Lilian Stacey, a refugee from the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, died in London on July 8 aged 104. She was born in Debrecen, Hungary, on January 9, 1892.



LILIAN STACEY was one of those Hungarians who literally walked to freedom in 1956. Abandoning her flat in Budapest, and already in her mid-sixties, she made her way on foot to the Austrian border. She carefully timed her arrival at the frontier for Christmas Eve in the hope (which was fulfilled) that the soldiers might prove less vigilant through festive celebration. She then made her way to London, where her son was already established.

The product of the *haute bourgeoisie* of the late Austro-Hungarian Empire, she was the daughter of a successful doctor who had studied medicine under the innovative surgeon, Professor Billroth, at Vienna's Landstrasse Hospital. She herself, after being educated at a convent by Benedictine nuns in her home town of Debrecen, was sent by her parents to a well-known Viennese finishing school.

In 1912, at the age of 20, she married Marius Szeesi, the director of an agricultural machine manufacturing company (she anglicised her surname when she first came to England 40 years ago). Her husband fought for the Central Powers in the First World War, being wounded on the Italian front. During the unsettled years that followed the armistice, her diplomatic talents found full play.

In 1919 she saved her husband's company from being expropriated by occupying Romanian troops. On learning of their commanding officer's

name, she remembered that it was his sister who had been her greatest friend and confidante at the finishing school in Vienna. An invitation was promptly issued for him to come to tea, which he duly did. A photograph was produced of the two girls in a school play, and no more was heard about the sequestration of her husband's company.

Marius Szeesi was a year later imprisoned by the Communists after Hungary's brief revolution but again she managed to negotiate his freedom. He eventually died in 1945.

During the long Depression of the late 1920s, Lilian Szeesi helped to organise soup kitchens in the county town of Debrecen and was active and energetic in local charities. After suffering much harassment during and after the Second World War, first from the Nazis and then from the Communists, she moved as a widow to Budapest for the sake of anonymity.

There she found a flat next door to that of a Hungarian secret policeman, who luckily failed entirely to report the constant stream of communism's "class enemies" who beat their way to her door. Serving him with meals from time to time may have assisted this convenient tendency towards amnesia.

Between the end of the war and the 1956 Hungarian revolution, she survived by selling all her jewellery and thereby managing to obtain both food and medicine. She made her eventual escape alone.

Lilian Stacey was much travelled, spoke and wrote in four languages, was full of energy and blessed with an unerring instinct for survival. Born in the *fin de siècle* era of the Emperor Franz Joseph, she died in the age of the Internet.

She had two children: a daughter who predeceased her and a son who survives her.

FRED HIFT

Fred Hift, film publicist and journalist, died in New York on July 6 aged 74. He was born in Vienna on November 27, 1921.

FOLLOWING a successful career in film journalism, Fred Hift masterminded the European publicity for many of the best-known films of the postwar years. He worked extensively for 20th Century Fox, marketing such productions as *The Longest Day* (1962) before setting up his own London-based public relations company, Fred Hift Associates.

Hift was a master of marketing and with his long experience in journalism had no problems attracting the press to parties, launches and other special events. Among the films he helped to promote

after leaving Fox were *The Slipper and the Rose* (1976), and *The Eagle Has Landed* (1976).

Hift was regularly to be found at gatherings like the annual Cannes Film Festival with a bevy of beautiful women working for him. Those producers who wanted significant media attention for their offerings soon found that employing the services of Hift's entourage became a matter of necessity.

Fred Walter Hift was born and educated in Vienna. Once Austria had been annexed by Germany in 1938, he escaped via England to the United States (most of his family were to perish in the Holocaust). He wrote briefly for the *Chicago Sun-Times* before settling in New York in 1941. There he monitored German and French broadcasts by Nazi



leaders for CBS. At the end of the war Hift joined *The New York Times* until his next career move, which took him into the world of films: "I joined *Daily Variety*, at that time under the editorship of

Abel Green, early in January 1950 when television wasn't yet a concept, radio still loomed large and of course movies dominated the scene."

A decade later Otto Preminger lured him away from journalism. He was sent, along with his young family, to Israel with a 300 per cent salary increase to be public relations director for the epic, nearly four-hour movie *Exodus* (1960). (During the premiere of *Exodus* an alleged to have stood up and said: "Otto, let my people go!") According to Hift, Preminger was a fine director, "but I suffered for it". Although he had his family with him, Hift had a miserable year and wanted to head home and back into journalism when the head of 20th Century Fox, Darryl F. Zanuck, recruited him to man-

age a lengthy production campaign for the Normandy invasion film, *The Longest Day*.

During this time he was regularly at Zanuck's side, often a little too close for comfort: "We would fly from one location to another by helicopter. The trouble was Zanuck had discovered the fun of hunting rabbits from a helicopter, not with a gun but simply asking the pilot to chase the rabbit from as low an altitude as possible. There were times when I thought the end had really come."

But the relationship flourished and Hift stayed in Europe for seven years working for Zanuck and Fox on a variety of projects not least *Cleopatra* (1963) with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. When hard times came for Fox in the early 1970s, they tried to persuade him to return to the United States. Hift had, though, by this time reverted to his own European origins and instead chose to establish an office in London.

He retained the studio as a client while also recruiting other American film companies. He handled publicity for the production and release of numerous films such as *The Return of the Pink Panther* (1974) and Billy Wilder's *Fedora* (1978).

He finally returned to New York in 1980 for family reasons, and finished his life more or less where he had begun it, writing about films.

He is survived by his wife Bernice and their two daughters.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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Get in quick for the last good deals

By TONY DAWE AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

AS THOUSANDS of state schools break for the long summer holiday tomorrow, the last remaining packages for home and abroad are being snapped up fast.

UK self-catering holidays are becoming increasingly difficult to find for the next six weeks. Hoteliers and holiday-village operators also report good bookings as warm weather encourages people to stay at home. Several popular overseas destinations, where capacity has been reduced this year, are also fully booked although a wide choice of holidays is still available.

Simon Box, product director of Crystal Britain, which offers short-break UK hotel holidays, said: "Despite a wet June, the knock-on effect of last summer's sunshine has done wonders for this year's

bookings, which are currently up by 20 per cent." He reports that the Cotswolds is just ahead of the Heart of England and the West Country as the most popular destination.

Country Holidays and English Country Cottages, with 7,000 self-catering properties in England, Scotland and Wales, both report a 10 per cent increase in business. "Scotland is the star performer this summer," said Tim Fullam, marketing director of English Country Cottages.

He added that most properties in the South of England, Dorset and south Cornwall are fully booked but some properties remain in north Cornwall and Devon and East Anglia. The National Trust reports that all its accommodation is full.

For those who have just

decided on a holiday abroad, there is only a limited choice and prices, generally, are much higher than at the same time last year.

Peter Povey, marketing director of the biggest travel agency chain Lunn Poly said: "People who haven't yet booked and expect to find low-price last-minute bargains are being disappointed. Prices this year are at least 10 per cent higher than last summer and while there are still some good deals, they are being quickly snapped up. The most important rule is to be flexible."

According to Thomas Cook, even Greece is now beginning to sell strongly as late bookers take advantage of the excess capacity and, therefore, lower prices. Inspirations can still offer two weeks in Dalaman, Turkey, for the beginning of



The lovely village of Lower Slaughter is typical of the Cotswolds, which is a top destination for tourists wishing to stay in the UK this summer

August from about £380, especially from regional airports such as Birmingham, Cardiff or Liverpool.

There are still some holidays left in the popular Spanish destinations, especially in the Balearics, said First

Choice holidays, who have also seen a sudden upsurge in bookings. But they, too, say that anyone who still has not made up their minds will be "hard pushed" to find a long-haul bargain.

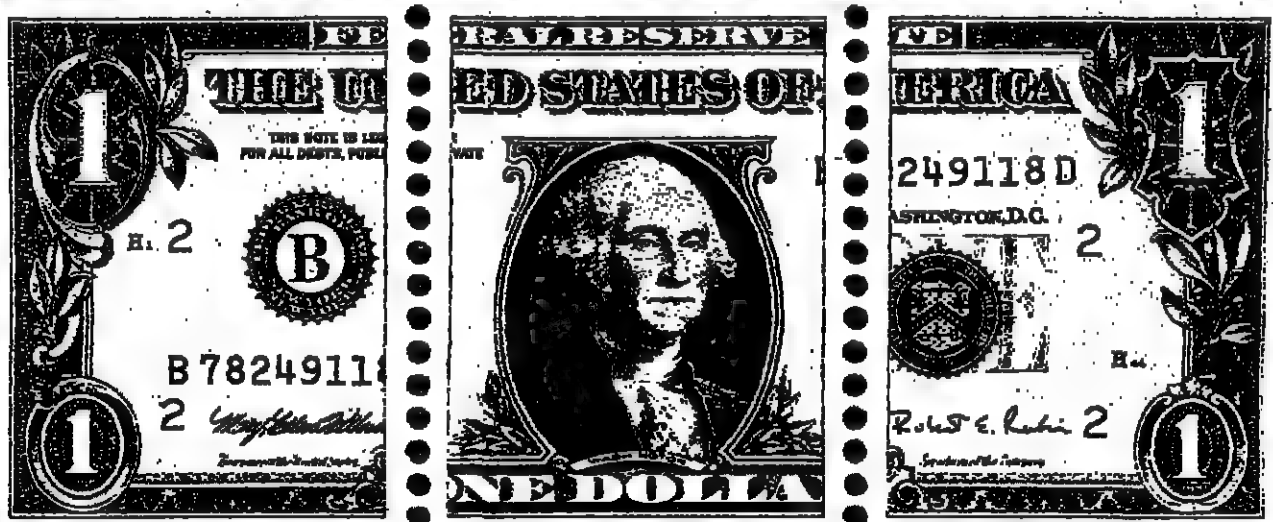
Thomson said there is very

little left to such destinations as Kenya, the Far East, the Caribbean or Florida. A spokeswoman said: "Kenya is completely sold out in August and demand has been so great that we have put on extra aircraft from Gatwick."

A few holidays on the Florida coast remain. The large number of aircraft seats on the route mean that deals to Orlando are still available, but without accommodation. So go only if you are prepared to take a risk.

No one was injured in the bombs that have gone off in Malaga this week, but the Foreign Office, via travel agents, is warning British visitors likely to visit Spain this year to report any suspicious bags or packets.

Collect your foreign currency from the same place you collect your stamps.



Passengers flock to Eurostar

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PASSENGER traffic on the Eurostar high-speed train service to Paris and Brussels has surged by up to 40 per cent since the London and Continental Railways private consortium acquired it from the Government in April.

The 180mph service is already close to passing last year's total of 3.5 million passengers and could exceed the 6.5 million target set by its new owners. Last week saw another record broken with numbers reaching 122,000 passengers carried between London, Ashford, Lille, Paris and Brussels.

London and Continental (LCR) must push traffic levels to around ten million within two years if it is to make the heavily loss-making service profitable, and launch it on the stock market to fund the construction of the Channel Tunnel rail link.

So far, Eurostar has met all the projections set by the LCR consortium, which includes Virgin Group and National Express, but any faltering in its growth could deal a devastating blow to its ambitions.

A range of new promotions to continue the increase in traffic numbers are set to be announced next month. They include a new "premium first" class giving passengers the freedom to swap their Eurostar tickets for air tickets. This will initially be linked only with British Midland but

LCR hopes to include Air France and British Airways in the scheme as well.

There will also be a new intermediate business class, aimed at business travellers who cannot afford the full first-class service. Passengers will have a dedicated economy class coach and will be served a snack meal in their seats.

However, the big increase in passenger numbers is expected to come from the leisure sector, where Eurostar is still relatively weak. The lowest economy price has already been halved from the £99 offered at the launch of Eurostar in 1994, and more special offers are planned. Many Friday, Saturday and Sunday services to Paris are now fully booked.

"We want to make going by Eurostar as popular as going to the Costa del Sol was in the 1960s and Florida in the 1980s," said Mark Furlong, Eurostar's marketing manager.

The Brussels service remains a poor performer, with trains running at 40 per cent full on average. However, with frequency now up to eight trains a day, Eurostar is hoping that more business travellers will be persuaded to use it. In the long run, more regular but shorter trains may be operated to Brussels but this is not currently feasible as it takes up to five hours to uncouple carriages.

Tussaud's war on queues

By DAVID CHURCHILL

AS LONDON enjoys its best-ever year for tourism — with more than 24 million expected — visitors are being offered a guide to beating the queues by the attraction with the longest lines of all, Madame Tussaud's.

The waxworks, which attracted more than 2.7 million visitors last year, is the capital's leading paid-for tourist attraction. But visitors can queue for an hour or more to see the 200-year-old collection of wax models.

Madame Tussaud's now believes that long lines for everything from theatres to restaurants are deterring even more people from coming to London, especially from the rest of Britain. Next week the London Tourist Board is starting a promotional drive to lure people from the regions to the capital.

The Madame Tussaud's guide, *Jumping the Queue*, covers not only London's main tourist attractions but also restaurants and shops. The basic advice for visiting most attractions in comfort is, unsurprisingly, to see them early in the day. Visitors to the Tower of London should "avoid noon-2pm in high season and, if you really don't want to wait, arrive when the Tower opens (9am)".

But if you want to see

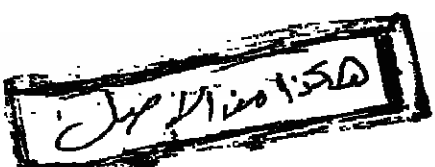
Buckingham Palace during the summer when the Queen is not in residence, be prepared that "whatever time you visit, it's likely to be very busy". Other advice is also fairly obvious: "London Zoo is less crowded during school term time."

A useful tip for avoiding the queue outside the Hard Rock Cafe is to phone in advance and put your name down at the door. The advice, however, is not always strictly accurate. Look for a taxi in Shaftesbury Square — which it says is one of the best places to find a cab late at night — and you will face difficulties: Shaftesbury Square does not exist in the London A-Z.

● *Jumping the Queue* is available free from the customer services department of Madame Tussaud's, Marylebone Road, London NW1 3LR. The London Tourist Board has a number of helplines available, on push-button telephones only, on 071-471 0027.



Foreign currency and travellers cheques available at your post office.



Bargains of the week: go cruising in the Mediterranean, luxuriate in the Loire

| | | | |
|-------------|------|-----------|------|
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| Chicago | E625 | Rio | E665 |
| San Angeles | E325 | Rome | E110 |
| San Jose | E375 | San Pedro | E328 |
| San Jose | E89 | Singapore | E380 |
| San Jose | E315 | Singapore | E380 |
| San Jose | E265 | Taipei | E189 |
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1550



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Why the Treasury must be brought to heel



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Uma Thurman goes for the jocular in her new film



SPORT 37-44

Olympic diver takes the plunge after suffering cold feet

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TELEVISION AND RADIO
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JULY 18 1996

News Corp buys US television group for \$2.5bn

By ERIC REGULY

THE News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, embarked on its biggest expansion in the television market yesterday with the purchase of New World Communications Group, of Georgia, for \$2.5 billion. New World's TV stations will be combined with Fox Broadcasting, creating America's largest TV company by household coverage.

The acquisition came the day after News Corp learned that its

effort to buy MGM/UA, the Hollywood studio, had failed. The New World purchase, however, came as little surprise because News Corp already owned 20 per cent and was widely expected to buy the rest.

New World, which was controlled by Ronald Perleman, the New York multimillionaire best known as the owner of the Revlon cosmetics group, comprises 12 TV stations. Two of them, in San Diego and in Birmingham, Alabama, are to be sold to the NBC network for \$425 million, leaving stations in Atlanta,

Dallas, Phoenix, Detroit, Cleveland, Tampa, St Louis, Kansas City, Milwaukee and Austin.

New World also produces and distributes syndicated TV programmes, owns 37.5 per cent of Guthrie-Renker, an "infomercial" production company, and 50 per cent of Premiere, the film and entertainment magazine.

When the New World purchase is completed in January, the Fox company will own 22 stations which will reach 34.5 per cent of American households. This will put it just

under the 35 per cent limit imposed by the Federal Communications Commission.

Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive of News Corp, said: "This acquisition continues the momentum towards our goal to become the leading over-the-air free broadcast television network in the United States, and underscores our commitment to play a major role in the industry for decades to come."

News Corp is issuing 1.45 News Corp limited voting, preferred American Depositary Receipts for

each Class A and Class B New World common share, which were valued at \$27 apiece on July 16. After the deal is completed, News Corp will issue about 117 million new preferred shares, each representing four ordinary shares.

Steven Barlow, an analyst in New York with Smith Barney, said that New World shareholders would end up holding some 13 per cent of the News Corp equity. News Corp has told analysts that the purchase will be earnings neutral in the first year and will start contributing to profits

in the second. The New World stations generally have lower profit margins than Fox's, which leaves room for improvement through cost cutting.

The New World acquisition is News Corp's largest television deal. In the 1980s, News Corp paid \$3 billion for TV Guide magazine.

Time Warner, the media and entertainment group, yesterday agreed in principle to proceed with its \$7.5 billion merger with Turner Broadcasting, the TV network that operates the CNN news channel.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|----------|
| FT-SE 100 | 3658.2 | (+25.9) |
| Yield | 4.15% | |
| FT-SE All Share | 1818.05 | (+9.87) |
| Nikkei | 2142.88 | (+6.53) |
| Dow Jones | 5375.48 | (+16.54) |
| S&P Composite | 631.52 | (+3.56) |

US RATE

| | | |
|---------------|--------|-----------|
| Federal Funds | 5 1/4% | (8%) |
| Long Bond | 8 7/8% | (97 1/2%) |
| Yield | 7.625% | (7.03%) |

LONDON MONEY

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| 3-month interbank | 5 1/4% | (5 1/4%) |
| 12-month bill | 10 1/2% | (10 1/2%) |

STERLING

| | | |
|----------|---------|----------|
| New York | 1.5438* | (1.5584) |
| London | | |
| DM | 1.5485* | (1.5578) |
| FF | 2.3023* | (2.3542) |
| FR | 7.7277* | (7.8744) |
| SP | 1.8805* | (1.9048) |
| Yen | 168.40 | (170.18) |
| Index | 94.9 | (95.5) |

| | | |
|-------|---------|----------|
| US\$ | | |
| DM | 1.4848* | (1.4855) |
| FF | 5.0335* | (5.0255) |
| FR | 1.2129* | (1.2177) |
| Yen | 108.60* | (108.45) |
| Index | 98.4 | (98.5) |

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Tokyo close Yen | 108.48 |
|-----------------|--------|

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| NORTH SEA OIL | |
| Brent 15-day (Oct) | \$18.20 (n/a) |

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| London close | \$983.35 (\$985.45) |
|--------------|---------------------|

* denotes midday trading price

Jobless figure at lowest since 1991

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday welcomed what it claimed were further improvements in Britain's labour market, even though underlying unemployment appears to be rising and the number of jobs declining.

But new figures on average earnings growth and productivity prompted City speculation that pay awards are now beginning to reflect falling inflation.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said yesterday that a 14,300 fall in claimant unemployment to its lowest level since 1991 showed clearly that "the UK is into its fourth year of good news on jobs."

Seasonally adjusted unemployment in June fell to 2,152,000, or 7.7 per cent of the workforce, down 161,100 on a year ago.

Taking into account some special factors, including a small number of BSE-related job losses, Whitehall statisticians suggested that this indicated a downward monthly trend of about 10,000-15,000 — slightly higher than their estimates last month.

Claimant unemployment fell in all regions except Scotland, and although it fell by 14,900 among men, female unemployment rose by 600 to 519,400. Total unadjusted unemployment fell by 51,037 to 2,096,326.

At the same time, separate figures from the Government's household-based quarterly Labour Force Survey showed that unemployment on an internationally accepted definition increased in the three months to May by 11,000 — again with a rise among women, and a fall among men.

LFS figures also showed the total number of jobs falling — down by 34,000 to 25.7 million, and new figures for manufacturing employment in May showed a 7,000 fall. The number of new job vacancies at JobCentres was also down to its lowest level for six months.

Ministers insisted job prospects remained good. Eric Forth, Employment and Education Minister, said that taken together, the figures were "not inconsistent with the general downward trend of claimant unemployment". But Labour said that the LFS figures showed the

claimant count was now hiding the scale of "real" unemployment. Michael Meacher, Shadow Employment Secretary, said: "The claimant unemployment figures mask the reality of an economic slowdown, and a growing crisis in the labour market."

For the unions, John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, said the fall in unemployment, while welcome, did not come from strong job creation.

Whitehall officials maintained that the jobs evidence suggested further labour market improvement, but accepted that the signs were "mixed."

But there was unequivocally good economic news on earnings. Average earnings growth across the economy fell back a quarter point to an underlying rate of increase of 3.5 per cent. City economists suggested that this indicated that pay settlements, after showing signs of creeping upwards, were now finally adjusting to falling price inflation.

Average earnings growth in production industries, and, after revision, manufacturing both showed quarter-point falls, to 4 per cent. Both figures are at their lowest level since statisticians began compiling the series in 1980. Service sector earnings growth also fell back by a quarter point to 3.25 per cent.

Growth in unit labour costs also eased, from 3.7 per cent for the three months ending in April to 3.2 per cent for the three months ending in May. Productivity also improved, rising from 0.7 per cent in the three months ending in April to 1 per cent in May.



Eddie George yesterday at the topping out of 1 Poultry opposite the Bank of England

George opposed rates cut

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE, the Chancellor, cut base rates last month against the advice of Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, according to the minutes of the June 5 monetary meeting published yesterday.

Mr George recommended that rates be left unchanged at 6 per cent, but the Chancellor reduced them by a quarter point to 5.75 per cent, arguing that the move was small

enough not to cause any inflationary risk but could help to reduce the danger of the economy slowing.

Geoffrey Dicks, of NatWest Markets, said: "We are back in the 'trust me' mode of economic policy-making."

The Governor argued that, if rates were cut now in order to try to guard against short-term risks to activity that then failed to materialise, this would simply serve to exacer-

bate potential inflationary pressure.

Mr George did not exclude the possibility of a need for a further cut in rates if there was clear evidence that the economy was slowing significantly over the next few months. But, from the minutes and this week's testimony to the Treasury Select Committee, he regards this as unlikely. The next monetary meeting is on July 30.

United Utilities pay plan opposed

By JASON NISSE

UNITED UTILITIES, the water and electricity company created by the takeover of Norweb by North West Water, is facing defeat over its plans to introduce a long-term incentive plan that could give directors nearly double their annual salaries.

The plan, to be voted on next week, is opposed by up to a dozen institutional investors, the Association of British Insurers and Pirc, the corporate governance consultancy with more than 50 institutional investors as clients.

Both the National Association of Pension Funds and the Manifest voting agency have indicated United's scheme may not comply with the Greenbury recommendations on executive pay.

If defeated, it will be the first time shareholders have blocked pay plans for so-called "fat cat" directors of privatised utilities.

United, which in April gave its directors large pay rises to reflect the increased size of the company, is planning to introduce a short-term scheme, which will pay up to 40 per cent of salary in bonus, and a longer-term plan. That plan will pay up to 87.5 per cent of salary in bonus if United outperforms the fifth best company in the FTSE-100 index.

However, investors have said this is overgenerous and chooses the wrong performance criteria. The Greenbury report says utilities should choose comparisons with other companies in their sector, not the market in general.

John Tellow, United's company secretary, said he did not believe there was great opposition to the scheme. He said seven institutions had expressed concerns, United had dealt with six of them and was meeting with the seventh.

Penetration, page 25

Doubt over Costain rescue plan

By OLIVER AUGUST

COSTAIN, the troubled construction company, was struggling yesterday to keep its £725 million rescue plan alive after a key investor rejected the deal and called for a three-month moratorium.

The company appealed to shareholders to vote for the cash injection from Intra, which will give the Malaysian company a 40 per cent stake, at an extraordinary meeting next Monday. But MA Kharafi & Sons, the Kuwaiti company that holds 19 per cent of Costain, said it would not approve the refinancing plan. Instead, it seeks a new rescue package for Costain.

Ahmed Samy, Kharafi's investment manager, said: "We are extremely unhappy with the proposals because they do not reflect the full value of the group and are not in the shareholders' best interests."

Alan Lovell, Costain's chief executive, has said that if shareholders rejected the plan he saw no alternative to administrative receivership.

SIB struck secret deal with Knight Williams

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Securities and Investments Board, the City's top watchdog, is holding £1 million that should have been earmarked for compensation payments to elderly investors of Knight Williams, the controversial retirement income specialist now in liquidation.

Under the terms of a secret deal between the SIB and Knight Williams, struck in April 1995, the money was part of the £15 million price paid by Singer & Friedlander,

the merchant bank, to buy £400 million managed by KW. Under the terms of the deal, £5 million was handed over immediately in cash of which the SIB said that £2.8 million should be paid into KW & Co to meet possible compensation claims. The watchdog then allowed the balance to go to Knight Williams Portfolio Management, a separate company within the group that is still trading and is regulated by Imro, the watchdog for fund managers.

A further £6 million was paid in

the form of a one-year Singer & Friedlander loan note which was cashed in on June 30. Of that sum the SIB's solicitors, Cameron Markby Hewitt now holds approximately £1 million and the remainder has been handed over to Knight Williams Portfolio Management.

Neil Micklethwaite, a senior partner at Dobb Lupton, the law firm acting for the Knight Williams investors action group, said: "That £1 million wasn't freely available for the purposes of meeting compensation claims immediately — it should

have been. The SIB originally promised that Knight Williams assets would be ring-fenced and freely available to meet payments but this never materialised."

He added: "We believe that the total sale price should have been paid into the Knight Williams company now in liquidation as we believe the goodwill of the business was owned by that firm. The SIB should never have allowed the directors to have the money paid into a separate company that had nothing to do with the compensa-

tion claims and which until late 1994 did not employ any staff."

Mr Micklethwaite said the secret deal struck between the SIB and Knight Williams "was positively harmful to investors' interests."

On Tuesday the Investors Compensation Scheme, the ultimate safety net for investors who lose money through bad advice, theft or fraud, declared Knight Williams in default. This is a mechanism that now opens the way for up to 900 KW investors to file compensation claims that could total £7 million.

The SIB first intervened in the Knight Williams scandal in late 1994 after pressure from MPs and consumer bodies. By last summer the watchdog had established that at least 400 investors were due possible compensation payments of at least £2 million.

Kenneth Jordan, founder of the Knight Williams investors action group, said: "I fail to see on what moral or legal grounds the SIB had any right to strike a secret deal and not involve us the victims."

The SIB declined to comment.

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TUC anger at delay for victims of mis-selling

By Robert Miller

HUNDREDS of thousands of victims who were mis-sold personal pensions are still waiting for compensation payments six months after the expiry of a deadline set by the City's watchdogs.

A new report, *Justice Delayed*, published today by the TUC, says that only 7,000 of a potential 1.5 million victims have been offered redress. The Personal Investment Authority, the watchdog charged with overseeing the personal pensions mis-selling industry, had set a deadline of December 31 last year for life companies to review the most urgent cases.

The TUC says: "Many victims of potential mis-selling have not even been contacted by the companies or advisers that sold them their pensions in the first place." Describing the mis-selling as "one of the greatest financial scandals of all time" the TUC adds: "As many as 1.5 million victims were wrongly persuaded to

take out a personal pension when they would have been better off making alternative arrangements, usually through an employer's scheme or sticking with the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme."

The final mis-selling bill for compensation and costs is expected to cost the life and pensions industry up to £4 billion. Those life offices named in the TUC report include household names such as the Prudential, Abbey Life, Pearl, Legal & General and the TSB. Amounts set aside for possible compensation payments include £80.1 million by Lloyd's Abbey Life, TSB's £126 million and Sun Life of Canada's £31.1 million.

The review has been plagued by a series of court challenges to the PIA's authority and jurisdiction, and the computer software needed to calculate compensation took longer than expected to perfect. Nevertheless, the watchdog yesterday acknowledged that the review timetable had slipped. A PIA spokesman added: "Those who fail to comply with the review face severe disciplinary action."

John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, says: "This report tells a shocking story. Despite the clear findings of all the regulatory bodies that compensation should be paid, many companies seem to be dragging their feet and have yet to even start the process of review."

The Government has said little, and done less, to speed the process. This is possibly because it does not want to admit that it gave the whole process of mis-selling a kick-start with its bribe to opt out of Serps and other pension changes in the 1980s. Justice delayed is justice denied. Companies and regulators must now set a new and early deadline, and this time they must meet it."



Nobo, the office equipment group whose chief executive is Roger Colvin, left, pictured with Jim Prower, the finance director, increased its pre-tax profits 8 per cent to 2.93 million in the year to 3 May. Earnings, diluted by new shares, fell to 13.3p per share from 15.23p last time. A 4p final dividend maintains the year total at 6.2p.

Weinberg criticises SE 'neglect'

By Robert Miller

THE LONDON Stock Exchange has been criticised for neglecting private investors in an independent report funded by the Stock Exchange itself.

The report, by the committee on private share ownership, headed by Sir Mark Weinberg, chairman of J Rothschild Assurance, noted "with approval" that market mechanisms were being developed to help more private clients to buy shares in company flotations after the rules

on new issues were changed in favour of the big institutions last year.

Nevertheless, the report concludes: "It would have been better if the Stock Exchange had accompanied this rule change with a stronger rule confirming its wish to encourage the market to find ways to enable individuals to participate in new issues."

The committee, which included top City figures such as Peter Birch, chief executive of

Abbey National, and Lord Stewart, chairman of Throgmorton Trust, also calls on the Government to put the subject of personal finance on the national curriculum.

It also suggests that communications between companies and private shareholders could be improved by allowing firms to circulate summaries of complex documents such as merger details.

Colvin Oldham, chief executive of the Share Centre, the

low-cost dealing service for private investors, welcomed the Weinberg report. However, he said: "We need changes to company law through primary legislation to make sure the shareholders in nominee accounts should be able to enjoy the same rights to company recognition, communication and perks as investors whose names are on the register."

Pennington, page 25

Woolwich seeks takeover targets

By Robert Miller

THE Woolwich is searching for potential takeover and merger targets when it sheds its mutual building society status next year to become a £3 billion bank.

John Stewart, the new chief executive of Britain's third-largest society, which yesterday reported a 29 per cent rise in half-year profits to £183 million, said the Woolwich

would "make good use" of experience gained in previous mergers, takeovers and start-ups to grow "the core UK savings and loans business".

Market rumours persist that the Woolwich, which is protected from hostile bids for five years after it converts, is still a desirable target for the Prudential and the Royal Bank of Scotland. No formal

approaches have been made, however, and if they had, the price tag would be likely to push up the value of the new Woolwich bank to £4 billion.

The cost of next year's proposed conversion has so far totalled £5.4 million, but this figure is expected to more than double by the time the Woolwich makes its stock market debut next year

because of the bulk mailings of the transfer statements.

Total gross lending, including the residential mortgage assets acquired with the purchase of Midland Bank's French home loans book, rose 128 per cent to £2.9 billion, while net lending totalled £1.7 billion. Retail savings balances increased by £245 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

PIA to regulate sale of care policies

THE sale of long-term care policies is to be regulated in the same way as pensions and investment products, it was announced yesterday. The Personal Investment Authority (PIA) is planning to develop a "kitemark" for products of which it approves and will extend the legal contracts it already has with 4,000 member firms to cover long-term care policies.

The move was welcomed by the industry, which had expressed concern that without regulation, products might be inappropriately sold. It is anxious to avoid a repetition of pensions mis-selling fiasco, when thousands of people in occupational schemes were persuaded to transfer out to inappropriate personal pensions.

Underwriters face loss

BRITISH BIOTECH'S £143 million rights issue threatened to leave underwriters holding a large amount of stock. The shares continued to tumble as the deadline passed for shareholders to accept the offer. They opened higher and topped the rights price of £20.50, but lost momentum and closed at £19.63, down 67p. Kleinwort Benson, the lead underwriter, said it would not reveal how much stock underwriters had been left with until today. British Biotech has already received the £143 million.

Lloyd's offer resisted

THE offer from Lloyd's of London to cut the bills of American names by £40 million has been rejected by five US states, including Arizona and Utah. However, states representing more than 85 per cent of the market's 2,700 US names have accepted the offer. In return for the £40 million sweetener the states have agreed not to obstruct American names from accepting their share of Lloyd's £3.2 billion settlement offer.

Business letters, page 27

Single currency rejected

FOUR out of five British people do not want sterling to be replaced by a common European currency, according to Link, the British cash machine network. An overwhelming 90 per cent wanted to keep the pound, indicating that the pro-single currency stance of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is not shared by the consumer. Link said, Half of those surveyed felt that a single currency would lead to loss of national sovereignty. Only 7 per cent are actively pro the euro.

Swalec super-utility plan

HOMES across South Wales are set to get water, power and gas from the same "super-utility" for the first time. Swalec, the region's electricity company, announced plans to offer gas supplies to its 870,000 domestic customers, with hopes of cutting British Gas bills by between 15 and 20 per cent. The scheme will start from April 1998, when the gas market is opened to full competition. Swalec, part of Hyder, the super-utility group, also plans to sell gas service contracts.

BA switch to Gatwick

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to switch its Latin American services from Heathrow to Gatwick, creating 500 jobs. When the Latin American services are transferred to Gatwick, BA will operate to more than 100 destinations, with more than 1,000 flights a week. BA will serve more US cities from Gatwick than it does from Heathrow. In the year to March 31, BA carried 5.4 million passengers on its Gatwick services, up from 4.7 million in 1994. Travel News, pages 20 and 21

TOURIST RATES

| | Buys | Sells |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Australia \$ | 2.07 | 1.91 |
| Belgium F | 17.26 | 16.78 |
| Canada C | 80.82 | 80.82 |
| Cyprus Cyp | 0.7492 | 0.8942 |
| Denmark D | 8.49 | 8.49 |
| Finland Mkl | 7.82 | 8.57 |
| France F | 6.55 | 7.30 |
| Germany D | 2.467 | 2.257 |
| Greece Dr | 382 | 357 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 12.70 | 12.70 |
| Ireland P | 1.021 | 0.941 |
| Israel Shk | 5.38 | 5.38 |
| Italy Lira | 9476 | 2320 |
| Japan Yen | 184.40 | 184.40 |
| Malta M | 0.587 | 0.542 |
| Netherlands Gld | 2.750 | 2.520 |
| New Zealand \$ | 2.41 | 2.19 |
| Norway Kr | 10.80 | 10.80 |
| Portugal Esc | 949.50 | 231.00 |
| S Africa Rd | 7.49 | 6.98 |
| Spain Ptas | 202.50 | 185.50 |
| Sweden Kr | 10.95 | 10.15 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.090 | 1.850 |
| Turkey Lira | 1647.16 | 1247.16 |
| USA \$ | 1.853 | 1.825 |

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LEGAL NOTICES

ON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of ON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) is to be held at the Hilton National, Albany Top, Hudson Road, Albany, Middlesex, HA9 7TA on 24 July 1996 at 11.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receiver and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend should contact the receiver's office on 0113 264 2044 and ask for John Farley. Any creditors requiring a copy of the report which is available free of charge should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Roger Marsh
Joint Administrative Receiver
9 July 1996

ON ARTSTONE LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Artstone Limited is to be held at the Hilton National, Albany Top, Hudson Road, Albany, Middlesex, HA9 7TA on 24 July 1996 at 11.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receiver and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend should contact the receiver's office on 0113 264 2044 and ask for John Farley. Any creditors requiring a copy of the report which is available free of charge should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Roger Marsh
Joint Administrative Receiver
9 July 1996

LISTON BUILDING SERVICES (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Liston Building Services Limited is to be held at the Hilton National, Albany Top, Hudson Road, Albany, Middlesex, HA9 7TA on 24 July 1996 at 11.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receiver and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend should contact the receiver's office on 0113 264 2044 and ask for John Farley. Any creditors requiring a copy of the report which is available free of charge should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Roger Marsh
Joint Administrative Receiver
9 July 1996

WESTGROVE PARTNERSHIP (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Westgrove Partnership Limited is to be held at the Hilton National, Albany Top, Hudson Road, Albany, Middlesex, HA9 7TA on 24 July 1996 at 11.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receiver and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend should contact the receiver's office on 0113 264 2044 and ask for John Farley. Any creditors requiring a copy of the report which is available free of charge should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
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Joint Administrative Receiver
9 July 1996

WESTGROVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Westgrove Project Management Limited is to be held at the Hilton National, Albany Top, Hudson Road, Albany, Middlesex, HA9 7TA on 24 July 1996 at 11.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receiver and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend should contact the receiver's office on 0113 264 2044 and ask for John Farley. Any creditors requiring a copy of the report which is available free of charge should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
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Joint Administrative Receiver
9 July 1996

WESTGROVE SPECIAL PROJECTS LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Westgrove Special Projects Limited is to be held at the Hilton National, Albany Top, Hudson Road, Albany, Middlesex, HA9 7TA on 24 July 1996 at 11.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receiver and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend should contact the receiver's office on 0113 264 2044 and ask for John Farley. Any creditors requiring a copy of the report which is available free of charge should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Roger Marsh
Joint Administrative Receiver
9 July 1996

WESTGROVE DECOR LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Westgrove Decor Limited is to be held at the Hilton National, Albany Top, Hudson Road, Albany, Middlesex, HA9 7TA on 24 July 1996 at 11.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receiver and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend should contact the receiver's office on 0113 264 2044 and ask for John Farley. Any creditors requiring a copy of the report which is available free of charge should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Roger Marsh
Joint Administrative Receiver
9 July 1996

WESTGROVE HOLDINGS LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Westgrove Holdings Limited is to be held at the Hilton National, Albany Top, Hudson Road, Albany, Middlesex, HA9 7TA on 24 July 1996 at 11.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receiver and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend should contact the receiver's office on 0113 264 2044 and ask for John Farley. Any creditors requiring a copy of the report which is available free of charge should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Roger Marsh
Joint Administrative Receiver
9 July 1996

THE INVOLVENCY ACT 1986 (No. 7439 of 1986) IN THE High Court of Justice in Bankruptcy
In the matter of the estate of the late Mr. John Farley, deceased. Notice is hereby given that the receiver, Roger Marsh, has received the report of the receiver and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend should contact the receiver's office on 0113 264 2044 and ask for John Farley. Any creditors requiring a copy of the report which is available free of charge should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
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9 July 1996

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Roger Marsh
Joint Administrative Receiver
9 July 1996

WHITE ROSE CONVEYANCERS LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of White Rose Conveyancers Limited is to be held at the Hilton National, Albany Top, Hudson Road, Albany, Middlesex, HA9 7TA on 24 July 1996 at 11.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receiver and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend should contact the receiver's office on 0113 264 2044 and ask for John Farley. Any creditors requiring a copy of the report which is available free of charge should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Roger Marsh
Joint Administrative Receiver
9 July 1996

ADVANCED PLANT SERVICES LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
A meeting of the creditors of Advanced Plant Services Limited is to be held at the Hilton National, Albany Top, Hudson Road, Albany, Middlesex, HA9 7TA on 24 July 1996 at 11.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receiver and, if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors. Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and who wish to attend should contact the receiver's office on 0113 264 2044 and ask for John Farley. Any creditors requiring a copy of the report which is available free of charge should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
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9 July 1996

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□ Weinberg report short on firm measures □ ASB opens up hedging debate □ Well-founded revolt at United Utilities

Why companies can't stand Sid

□ HOW unfortunate that Sir Mark Weinberg's Committee on Private Share Ownership should report on the week that the Government's latest attempt to widen and deepen the country's shareholder base has left 600,000 people worse off.

But the British Energy flop is relevant because it was the last gasp of a process that introduced millions of new investors to the stock market. The number of direct investors has now fallen by 1.5 million from 11 million in 1990, and that number will continue to fall in spite of occasional boosts from building society flotations and the like.

This will happen because many of those millions should never have been there in the first place, and they will gradually sell out of their handful of privatised stocks and slip away. Investors have traditionally come in two categories, the big City institutions and the "Aunt Agathas", wealthy individuals who at least understood the stock market and the companies they invested in. Privatisation brought in a third category, the Sids and super-Sids, many of whom never understood a thing, but were nursemaid into what looked like easy money.

The idea was that those Sids would get the investment bug and buy other stocks. There is little evidence that this hap-

pened, as the Weinberg Committee's conclusions seem to accept. So an unpleasant fact must now be faced. Private investors are regarded as a damned nuisance.

The Government does not care for them, even if they are a useful source of cash and a counterweight against the power of the City buyers, who can otherwise run rings around Whitehall when issues are being priced. If the issue flops, hundreds of thousands of Sids whinge; if it goes to a premium, ministers are accused of selling the asset too cheaply, but no investor remembers this in the polling booth.

Companies loathe them. Huge share registers are expensive to maintain, and then all they do is turn up once a year to ask damn-fool questions — the British Airways investor this week worried about the safety of his electronic share certificate in the event of nuclear detonation was a classic. To the City institutions, they are an irrelevance, because all the real work takes place behind closed doors and so few bother to attend the annual meeting.

Given all this, it is little

surprise that Weinberg, though long on data, came to few firm conclusions. There is the usual woolly talk about the Stock Exchange promoting the message and acting as catalyst for this, that and the other.

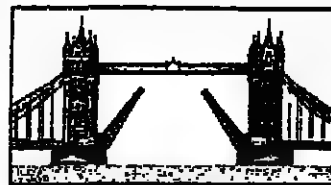
The most sensible suggestion would seem to be the need for clearer information for private shareholders. A caller to this column once said that the offer document he had been sent during a difficult takeover was so long, so convoluted and so technical that he was quite unable to understand any of the financial details.

He was a retired accountant.

Sir David tangles with derivatives

□ SIR David Tweedie is throwing the biggest stone into the accountancy pond since his Accounting Standards Board was set up. His discussion paper *Derivatives and Other Instruments*, out today, proposes valuing all company debt at current value rather than face value in balance sheets, and

PENNINGTON



could result in companies being unable, in accounting terms, to avoid market risk by hedging.

Complex swaps, options and forward contracts have brought so many nasty surprises that derivatives have become one of those things about which Something Must Be Done. Users of financial derivatives, unlike banks that issue them, often need reveal nothing in their accounts and give no more than an anodyne, self-deluding explanation of policy. Yet these transactions can bring ruin as well as healthy annual treasury profits.

Most will welcome the board's first aim: to drive swiftly for disclosure of numbers, plus an explanation of the risks a company is exposed to. The trouble

starts with the second aim: to devise a consistent method of accounting for derivatives contracts. This quest has tempted the board into radical thoughts and Sir David expects flak.

Big Six accountants and even finance directors want to be supportive. They are being stuck with inconvenient international rules on tax, because the UK was too preoccupied to get in the debate early. This time they want the ASB to take a lead.

The board has argued the issues through rigorously. But if its purer thoughts gain sway, the derivatives tail will wag the accounting dog as strongly as Liffé wags the Stock Exchange.

Once you start marking derivatives contracts to market values to show running gains or losses, it is hard to stop without spawning anomalies. So even debentures would go in balance sheets at market prices, challenging the essence of historic cost accounts.

Sadly, the board's logic would not paint a true picture to users, especially when credit ratings change. Nor would it achieve the consistency the board aims for here, but rejected for goodwill. It

would surely discourage the cautious, and encourage nifty use of intermediaries. This argument will outlast the century.

An incentive too far

□ THE shareholder revolt over United Utilities' long-term incentive plan, or L-Tip, looks like it could be the first defeat for an over-generous management. One can only hope so.

Up to now, boards have been able to push through remuneration packages with the odd minor amendment secure in the knowledge that few institutions, when it comes to the vote at the annual meeting, were prepared to stand their ground.

The United Megalomania package is objectionable on a number of grounds. First, there is the increase in salaries handed out to compensate executives for the strain of taking over Norweb, a process they rushed into of their own free will. Secondly, long-term pay awards are heavily tied to earnings per share and the share price. This all

sounds perfectly acceptable, except that the company has already made great play of the huge cost savings available from the takeover, which can only inflate those earnings.

Meanwhile, the strong cash flow that such a utility enjoys can be ploughed back into dividends, so pushing up the share price. This point, that utilities stand in a special position, is accepted by the Greenbury committee itself, which recommends that they use comparisons with each other rather than with the market as a whole. A point overlooked, it seems, by the United Megalomania board.

Bitter Teares

□ SWINGS and roundabouts: Rank shares were rising on the stock market yesterday. An analyst's tip raised the hope that this stodgy leisure conglomerate might begin to motor as a more focused business under the guidance of its dynamic new chief executive, Andrew Teare. English China Clays were tumbling. As explained in today's *Tempus* column, it seems the refocusing of what was once regarded as a stodgy materials conglomerate might not have been as successful as hoped. That refocusing was carried out by the dynamic former chief executive, one Andrew Teare.

Weak demand prompts ECC strategic review

By PAUL DURMAN

ENGLISH CHINA CLAYS is suffering severe falls in sales and has set about an "intensive review" of its strategy, it said yesterday.

The company, which supplies kaolin and calcium carbonate coatings to the paper-making industry, has been badly hit by weak demand brought on by customers running down their stocks.

Sales volumes during the first half of the year at ECCI Europe, the European arm of the mineral business, were down 16 per cent, compared with 1995. ECCI AmPac, covering the Americas and the

Pacific, suffered an 11 per cent fall in sales volumes, once a recent acquisition is excluded. Manufacturing problems in America mean that AmPac may report a proportionately larger fall in profits.

Patrick Drayton, finance director, said English China Clays will set out the conclusions of its strategic review in September, when it reports its interim results. Mr Drayton said the company began rethinking its strategy shortly after Dennis Rediker took over from Andrew Teare as chief executive in January. Last year, Mr Teare de-

clared that English China Clays's five years of restructuring was at an end and said that the company was set to move onto a more aggressive growth path. Yet the last nine months have exposed the extent of the company's vulnerability to a downturn in the paper industry.

Analysts believe a key focus of Mr Rediker's review will be Calgon, the poorly performing speciality chemicals business bought three years ago. English China Clays yesterday reported a 3 per cent rise in chemical sales, but it is facing a squeeze on profit margins,

particularly in its main water treatment markets.

English China Clays said falling sales had hit cashflow, and net debt had risen to £213 million, from £189 million at the end of 1995.

Colin Porter, an analyst at Albert E Sharp, is cutting his profit forecast for this year from £77 million to about £70 million. Last year English China Clays made £95.1 million.

The shares slipped 11p to close at 243p, their lowest this year.

Tempus, page 26

Prices of top homes 'set to rise by 7.2%'

SAVILLS, the estate agent, has forecast a 7.2 per cent rise in the price of prime residential properties in 1996 (Martin Barrow writes).

The company said yesterday that increased confidence in the residential market, which had resulted in prime London property prices rising by about 44 per cent since December 1992, has continued to ripple out to the country house market.

Richard Jewson, chairman, said: "Trading started well in the first part of the current financial year and prospects look better than for some considerable time."

In the year to the end of April, the company lifted profits before tax to £4.1 million from £3.5 million. Earnings improved to 6.7p a share from 5.6p. Total dividend is lifted to 2.8p a share (2.5p), with a 2.05p final.

Iceland profit warning as sales melt away

By SARAH BAGNALL

SHARES of Iceland yesterday fell 24p, to 118p, a six-year low, after the frozen food retailer issued a surprise profit warning.

The retailer, where Malcolm Walker is chairman and chief executive, blamed falling sales and margins for an expected 10 per cent drop in interim profits from last year's £33.6 million. The retailer added that the bad news was unlikely to be contained to the first half as the group's extensive refurbishment programme would hit second-half sales.

In consequence, it is likely that profits for the full year will be below those reported for 1995, the company said in a statement. The company intends to stick to its progressive dividend policy. The warning prompted analysts to cut their profit fore-



Walker: upgrading stores

casts by up to £10 million and renewed concerns over the group's future. Philip Dorgan, an analyst at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull, said: "Market fears over whether Iceland has a viable position in the market place appear to have come true." Iceland is the only

frozen food retailer in Britain, a position that many analysts believe is unsustainable given that it offers shoppers little that is not available from the main supermarkets. Attempts to diversify into fresh foods appear to have failed to deliver the intended uplift in sales.

In a recent move aimed at combating the decline in sales, Iceland launched a Pricewatch initiative, designed to sharpen its pricing position. It said it was confident that this would produce long-term benefits but in the short term had hit buying margins.

Iceland is spending £25 million upgrading its stores, a process that involves the temporary closure of about 150 stores. "The adverse impact this has on sales will be particularly felt in the second half, the company said."

Tempus, page 26

Stork buys Fokker Aviation

By OLIVER AUGUST

STORK, the Dutch engineering group, has bought Fokker Aviation for £120 million.

Fokker Aviation, part of Fokker, the bankrupt aircraft manufacturer, consists of the services, technical support, maintenance and repair and spare parts divisions catering for a fleet of 1,200 Fokker aircraft. Fokker's manufacturing division is not included in the takeover. Yakovlev, the Russian aircraft design company, is frontrunner to take over the manufacturing business.

Stork said it expects the takeover to boost its annual turnover 12 per cent to £2 billion.

The Fokker bankruptcy earlier this year caused the loss of 5,600 jobs. The future of a further 2,300 depends on the sale of parts of the business.

Despite receiving millions of pounds in state aid in recent years, Fokker consistently traded at a loss and suffered a record £250 million deficit in the first half of last year. The company's death knell sounded last January, when majority shareholder Daimler-Benz refused to inject more money.

David S Smith 'cautious'

By PAUL DURMAN



Peter Williams and finance director David Butfield

DAVID S Smith, the UK's biggest reprocessor of waste paper, expects its profits to fall this year because of the difficulties faced by its paper-making business.

Although the company overcame volatile prices and destocking by customers to report record profits and sales for its most recent financial year, it warned it is "cautious" about the year ahead.

It believes that the progress it expects to make in its packaging and office products businesses may be outweighed by the adverse impact of weak paper markets.

In the year to April 27, David S Smith made pre-tax profits of £124.6 million, a 25 per cent increase. Sales rose by 20 per cent to £1,236 million.

The packaging and paper arm increased operating profits from £36.9 million to £110.5 million, while the office paper business moved ahead from £23.8 million to £26.2 million.

Peter Williams, chief executive, said this year had begun well. Most analysts expect only a small fall in group profits, to about £120 million.

A final dividend of 5.05p increases the total payout to 7.5p a share, a 15.4 per cent increase. Earnings rose 20 per cent to 30.3p a share.

Borrowings fell £28 million to £123 million cutting gearing from 32 to 27 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

US slimmers to give Medeva fat profits

By ERIC REGULY

FOR Medeva, the future is fat. The pharmaceuticals company reported yesterday that Iomamin, its new "slimming" drug, has become the fastest growing product in its international portfolio and is expected to capture a large slice of the American diet-control market.

Bill Bogie, Medeva's chief executive, said: "About 30 million Americans are severely fat. The market for slimming drugs is taking off."

Iomamin was acquired recently when Medeva purchased Rochester, the American business of France's Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, for \$400 million. The drug is aimed at those who are 30 per cent or more above normal weight and

works by increasing the patient's metabolic rates. Iomamin sales almost tripled to \$26 million in 1995.

Medeva, which has made £360 million in acquisitions since the collapse of its merger talks with Fisons last year, reported pre-tax profits of £33.9 million (£28.9 million), or 7.2p per share, in the half year to June 30. Sales rose 11 per cent to £129.1 million. The interim dividend rises 18 per cent to 1.65p. The share price, in spite of a downturn in its hospital and respiratory products divisions, was slightly higher than forecast. The shares rose 7p to 234p.

Tempus, page 26

Sema buys Syntax to take on Europe

By FRASER NELSON

SEMA, the Anglo-French IT services group, is to buy Olivetti's outsourcing subsidiary for £55 million, as part of an agreement on joint marketing strategies in Europe.

Sema is funding its acquisition of Syntax Processing, Olivetti's in-house software support company, with a £99.1 million rights issue, offering up to 17 million shares at 595p each.

Frank Jones, Sema's executive vice-president, said that although no formal agreement had been signed with Olivetti, the two had agreed to co-operate by sharing contacts and market information throughout Europe. "We overlap on very few areas," he

said. "Olivetti mainly deals with hardware maintenance and Sema specialises in software services. It makes sense to develop a closer working relationship."

Olivetti has sold SYNTAX as part of its diversification programme. It has maintained a six-year contract with the group, which generated sales of £55.8 million in 1995. During that year, Syntax's group sales were £89 million and it made a profit of £6.3 million before tax and exceptional items. Its French and Belgian subsidiaries will provide a presence in every West European country.

Sema's shares closed up 14p at a new high of 705p.

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AD 0425

STOCK MARKET

KAREN ZAGOR

Dow's rebound helps shares to recover

SIGNS of relief could be heard around the City as Wall Street's recovery rubbed off on shares. The FT-SE 100 started clawing back losses shortly after the start of trade and by midday the index had broken through the 3,650 barrier. After Wall Street's upbeat start the FT-SE moved even higher, adding 36.5 points before slipping a little to close up 25.9 points at 3,658.2.

The consistent gains, however, belie the fact that trading was thin as the UK held its breath to see what Wall Street had in store for the rest of the week. "Tomorrow we'll probably see more sideways movement," said one broker. "We're all hanging fire until Alan Greenspan (chairman of the US Federal Reserve) testifies before Congress. Wall Street will move violently on that."

One of the biggest gains on the day was posted by Wolsley, which jumped 18p to 439p after a broker described the stock as a quality buy and indicated that the recent market-down had been overdone. BAT also gained on positive comments, adding 13p to 498p.

Medeva, the acquisitive pharmaceutical group, surprised the market with its mid-pre-tax profits of £33.9 million, above the £33 million it had forecast. The news helped shares in the company to advance 7p to 234p. The improvement also reflected a positive response to the company's recent acquisition of the Rochester, New York, operations of Fisons.

David S Smith, the paper and packaging company, initially impressed traders by reporting record profits from its two main businesses during a time of very tough market conditions. Shares firmed on the results, rising to 307p before falling back to close at 293p, down 2p on the day.

Orange, the cellular telephone company, bounced back from its previous day's losses, with a gain of 6p to 188.5p. Vodafone, which had also been hit by negative sentiment about the sector a day earlier, edged up higher to 219p.

Generally, it was a good day for the telecommunications sectors. Nyx CableComms ended up lower at 98.5p per share after initially moving higher on the back of a strong second-quarter performance. BT firmed up to 356.5p ahead of its annual meeting today.



John Rudgard, of HP Bulmer, celebrated a rise

Power issues also fared well. The market applauded ScottishPower's move to halve the size of its rights issue by marking the shares 9p higher at 316p. British Energy may have also dragged itself out of the ground, its shares closing at 94.5p, an improvement on the previous day's close of 91p though still disappointingly below its offer price of 100p in their partly paid form. East Midlands Electricity eased up to 549p after announcing that it would cut the price of electricity by 5p per cent a unit. National Power advanced 4p to 384p. The company said it will

isolate to join the FT-SE 100 after the vacancy created by the marriage of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance, added up to 209.5p, consolidating its position as the leading candidate. Other contenders include Lucas Industries, down 1p to 21p and Hays, down 2p to 450p.

In the food retail sector, J Sainsbury received a boost on reports that Warburg had pegged recommendations for the store as a suitable buy thanks to its new loyalty card and its diverse base, including the DIY chain which has been spared the troubles of the core supermarket business. The

shares, which were placed at 68p, began their first day of AIM dealing at a 3p discount. The company plans to use the funds raised through the placement to expand its core business overseas, as well as increasing new divisions.

GILT-EDGED: Help was at hand from the start by a continuing rise in the German bond market and the gains were underpinned by a fall in average earnings, coupled with a decline in unit wage costs. Given all the good news, brokers were disappointed that the September series of the long gilt advanced only four ticks to 106 1/2. Volume in the futures pit fell back to average summer levels of 35,000 after unusually heavy volume on Tuesday. Gills, like equities, are now marking time ahead of Greenspan's testimony. The Treasury 3 per cent 2000 added 1/8 to 103 1/2 while at the longer end the Treasury 8 per cent 2015 advanced 1/8 to 107 1/2.

NEW YORK: Optimism returned to Wall Street, with a positive earnings report from Bellweather Intel Corp sparking renewed interest in shares. By midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 16,641 points higher at 5,375.40.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 5,375.40 (+16.40) S&P Composite 631.93 (+3.58)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 21,412.85 (+4.53)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 10,079.10 (+18.88)

Amsterdam: EOE Index 527.11 (+1.68)

Sydney: DAX 2,096.10 (+4.50)

Frankfurt: DAX 2,097.19 (+27.40)

Singapore: Straits 2,201.03 (+24.58)

Brussels: General 918.95 (+0.12)

Paris: CAC-40 1,995.11 (+5.60)

Zurich: SBA Gen 772.80 (+1.20)

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TEMPUS

Overdose of Kaolin

YEARS of restructuring have done little for English China Clays. A management dedicated to "focus" pared down ECC into a minerals business servicing the paper industry. The consequence has been linkage to a volatile manufacturing cycle. Buffeted by a sudden bout of destocking at paper merchants, ECC has lost almost a third of its market value since February while the dividend yield has reached 8.5 per cent. Ordinarily, investors might expect a recovery but there is a risk of a dividend cut and yesterday's cursory trading update gave no sign that the management has a clue how to solve the company's problems.

Paper merchants built up stocks last year in a frantic bid to beat price rises only to reverse the process this year, holding back on purchases as prices fell. The destocking hit ECC's minerals business which supplies

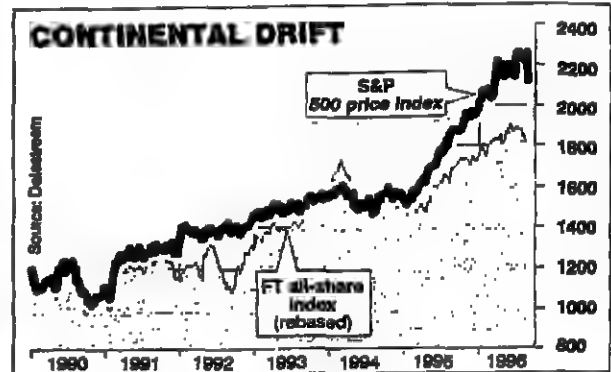
kaolin to paper mills. But the problem is likely to worsen as kaolin capacity in Brazil is in rapid expansion with three new producers contributing to 9 per cent of world output. The result will be a sharp decline in pre-tax profits: some reckon as little as £54 million for the year, not enough to pay tax and the £51 million cost of the ordinary dividend. Meanwhile, cash flow is becoming an issue with volumes falling, the company could suffer an expensive stock build-up while paying for its hefty investment programme. In the circumstances, a sale of the disastrous speciality chemicals looks almost certain - costing more than £200 million, it generated only £10 million in profit last year. When mulling over that episode, ECC's directors should consider maintaining the dividend. Shareholders might feel happier with the cash in their pockets.

Markets

WHAT THE UK stock market needs more than anything is a hand of Americansees. Temperamentally in tune with their European brethren, the anti-Wall Street brigade would rail against the pernicious influence of over-paid New York fund managers on the London market.

They might have had a calming effect on a market driven to despair this week by suggestions that the high earnings growth of US technology stocks had come to an end, or at least flattened. This fear caused panic selling of US computer and other high-technology companies and quickly found its way across the Atlantic and caused a slide in the FT-SE 100.

No one bothered to ask which FT-SE 100 companies would be seriously blighted by weaker demand for per-



Medeva

MEDEVA looks like a sitting duck. Since it fell out of the spotlight last year after its failure to merge with rival Fisons, gossip continues to label it a takeover or merger candidate. Much of the speculation has been fuelled by the company's deal-hungry American shareholders, who own more than a third of the equity, but there are compelling reasons why it may soon lose its independence.

A second-tier pharmaceutical company, Medeva is unusual in that it conducts no research. It acquires drugs that are either on the market or in the late stage of development, and uses its global infrastructure to distribute them as broadly as possible. Not burdened with research and development expenses, the company has strong earnings and, more importantly, generates a torrent of cash. Operating at a loss in the first half was £40 million on sales of £129 million.

Iceland

ICELAND's shares felt the chill wind of yesterday's profit warning but the full blast of the cold front was more acutely felt by rival retailer Somerfield.

Somerfield is trying to float, a task that is proving far from easy, partly due to the company's weak track record and opportunities, but also due to some unhelpful news. Stock market gyrations

equity yields has fallen and there is the prospect of another decline in short term rates. Meanwhile, institutions are bloated with cash from buy-backs and special dividends. Pension fund cash balances are as high as they have been since 1990 when interest rates were in double digits. The funds must reinvest soon.

together with speculation, now receding, of a Tesco rights issue have hardly helped matters. Then, yesterday, Iceland provided the coup de grace by issuing a profit warning.

The problem for Somerfield is that the City has been valuing its shares using Iceland and Kwik Save as comparators. To tempt investors Somerfield deliberately set the pricing range of the flotation at 180-190p, cheaper than Iceland, while delivering a higher dividend yield. Even before yesterday's news, the Somerfield price was considered excessive.

But after Iceland's share price slide yesterday, together with a commitment to stick to a progressive dividend policy, the yield advantage has been eroded. As a result, Somerfield is under severe pressure to reduce its price below 180p if it is to tempt institutional investors. If not, the flotation is likely to flop.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Jul 1996 99.80 Sep 100.00

Sep 100.00 Dec 100.00

Dec 100.00 Mar 100.00

Mar 100.00 Jun 100.00

Jun 100.00 Sep 100.00

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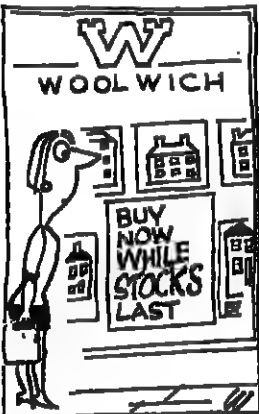
THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Landing a settlement

GOOD news for Stephen Hinchliffe since Facia, his Sheffield-based retail group, went into receivership last month. The entrepreneur's former private pilot yesterday settled a claim for unfair dismissal. Andrew Rose, 36, who flew the former Facia chairman around the world in a Golden Eagle 421 Cessna aircraft, was sacked in 1994 for allegedly receiving unauthorised pay for his flying. Rose, who is now a Manx Airlines captain, and was supported by Balpa, the pilots' union, denied the allegation. He was all set to begin an industrial tribunal case at Nottingham this morning for unfair dismissal, but the two men reached a settlement.

Jagger and me

ROBERT WALTERS, owner of the eponymous recruiter of permanent executives, shares something in common with the singer Mick Jagger — both dropped out of accountancy studies before they qualified. Walters, who floated his company on the Stock Exchange yesterday, spent only two years training to be an accountant before realising at the age of 23 that poaching his fellow colleagues was a far more profitable profession. A stint in New York with Michael Page, the largest recruiter of permanent executives, and Robert Walters's rival, made him certain that as prey turned predator, he would need much deeper pockets.



All a quiver

MICHAEL Heseltine's remarkable eyebrows were seen to quiver dangerously yesterday. During a speech to mark the foundation of the site of a new shopping centre in Kent, Stuart Hornery, chairman of Lend Lease, the Australian developer, repeatedly referred to "Mr Heseltine", as in the warning drink. Fortunately, in true laid-back Aussie style, Hornery soon switched to referring to Heseltine as plain old Michael. At last, the eyebrows were seen to relax.

Staying away

SIR Mark Weinberg, the South African chairman of St James Place Capital, the finance house, was nowhere to be seen at Allied Dunbar Assurance's 25th birthday party last night at Seary's in Knightsbridge, where Regency-style dress was compulsory. Unveiling his new report as chairman of the Committee for Private Share Ownership yesterday, he said: "I've got a long history of not going to 25th anniversary parties of companies I started."

Tall order

SAVILLS has just landed a sky-scraping order. The estate agent is offering the tallest tree in Britain for sale — a 212 ft Douglas Fir on the 2,980 acre Dunans Estate in Argyll. The Savills Edinburgh office is, however, experienced in this field, after it sold in 1993 what the Guinness Book of Records at that time considered to be the tallest tree in Britain — a 206 ft Grand Fir growing on the Stone Estate on Loch Fyne, only a dozen miles from this year's holder.

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Why the Treasury must now be brought to heel

It has been transformed into something resembling a religious cult

TO neuter or dismantle the Treasury should be the first priority of a new Labour government if it ever comes to power. Anyone who has not already been persuaded of this by the Treasury's dismal record of economic management, discussed on this page two months ago, should read the huge strategic review secretly produced by senior Treasury officials and leaked in *The Times* on Tuesday. Even Gordon Brown will surely drop his demand to give the Treasury (and by implication a future Chancellor) more powers once he has read this document.

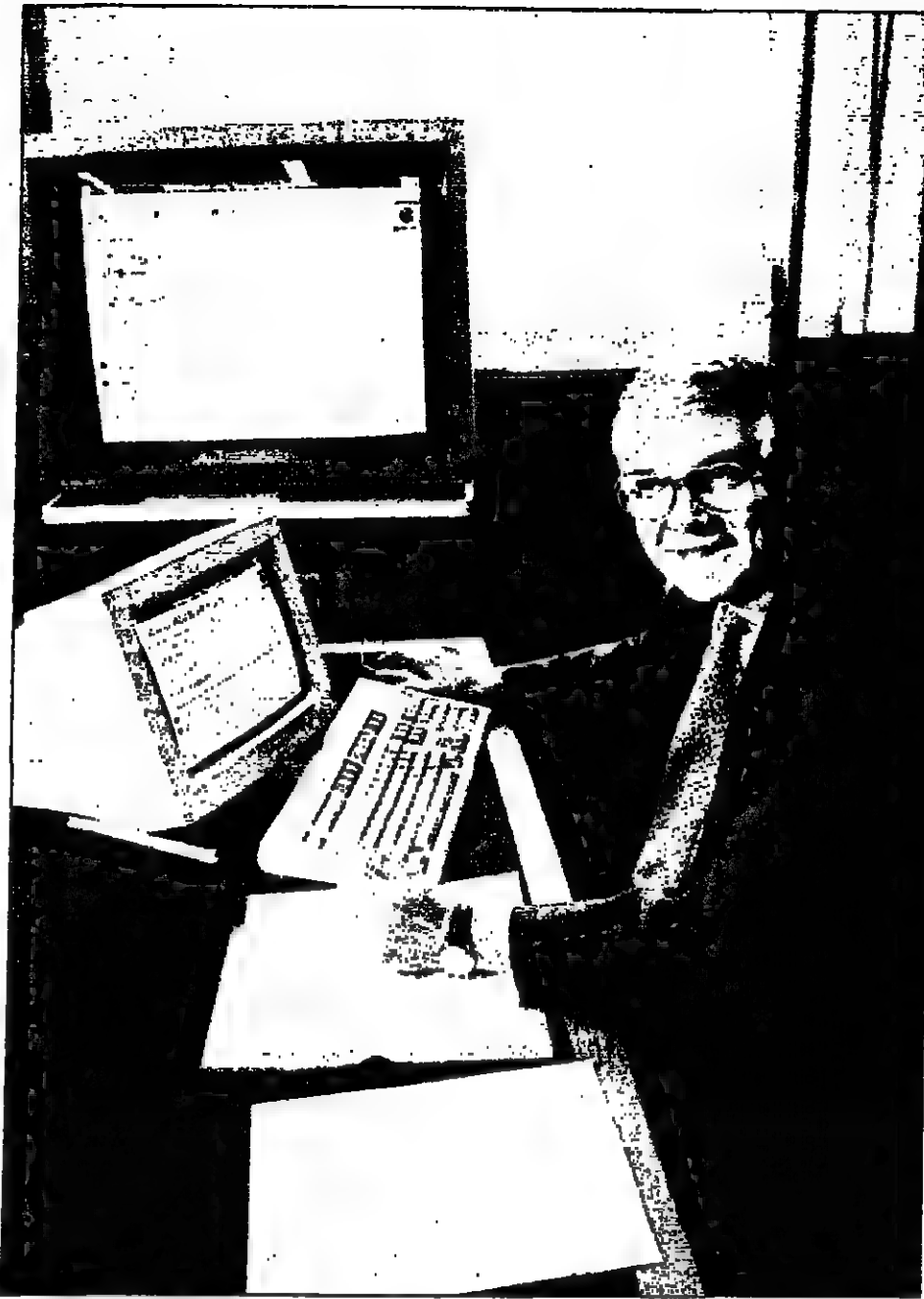
As I said in the article two months ago, the Treasury under Sir Terry Burns, its Permanent Secretary, remains a bastion of unreconstructed monetarism and *laissez-faire* economic liberalism. For the past 17 years, Treasury officials have been selected and promoted largely on the basis of their faith in the Thatcherite economic creed and they will remain faithful to this doctrine regardless of any change in government.

But even I did not realise until reading this document the extent to which the Treasury has been transformed from an efficient, though seriously flawed, administrative machine run by fanatically impartial pseudo-academics into something resembling a religious cult, whose adherents must abide unquestionably, on pain of expulsion, by a peculiar idiosyncratic dogma.

Consider, for example, the following statement of the Treasury credo, labelled *Key Assumptions* in the leaked Treasury document — and note that this document was supposed to be a completely balanced non-partisan review of the policies the Treasury might wish to implement over the next ten years under governments of either party:

"In considering how the role of the State may change and what is the scope for using markets instead, one of our most important beliefs is clear. Treasury officials have a high level of commitment to the efficiency of the market mechanism; to neo-classical welfare economics and to the utilitarian ethics on which they are based."

"In general, the limits of the utilitarian-market approach come where people believe virtues other than efficiency and self-interest should dominate, eg responsibility, justice, patriotism or where they conflict with rights-based ethics. The Treasury accepts the analysis that everything is tradeable and ultimately has a price and that all that is needed is a sensible allocation of property



Sir Terry Burns is in charge of a bastion of unreconstructed monetarism

rights." To put it simply, everything in the Treasury culture is now inimical to Tony Blair's main (perhaps his only) political ideal: the hope of creating a less individualistic, money-obsessed and market-dominated community, a concept he has sometimes described as "socialism".

And there is not the slightest chance that something as inconsequential as a general election would change the mandarins' views. At worst, the present management of the Treasury are narrow-minded dogmatists. At best, they may accept that ideological decisions should ultimately be made by politicians and elections, but they believe that the Treasury must always have a materialistic institutional philosophy to counteract the airy-fairy idealism and economic ignorance of other departments.

The document concedes that "a failure to appreciate that others may not share the Treasury's values and indeed that our perspective may not always provide politically acceptable and practical policy options is a weakness". But the paper never for a moment considers that Treasury officials may have the wrong values — or indeed that political civil servants are not entitled to have values at all, other than to help the Government to

achieve the objectives for which it was elected. On the contrary, for today's Treasury the task of making society more materialistic and of increasing the sway of market forces has acquired the over-arching significance of a moral crusade. It seems that if a minister were to ask a Treasury official to help to find a way of reducing the role of markets (for example in the health service or in education or broadcasting), the mandarin could treat this as a moral affront, almost like asking a Home Office official to find a way of murdering an awkward prisoner.

Even to a fairly cynical observer like myself of the Treasury's long-term transformation into an ideological free-market think tank, the lack of any appearance of impartiality in the leaked document came as a shock. That ideological bias alone should be enough to disqualify the Treasury from playing the enlarged role in any future Labour government demanded by Mr Brown. But reading the sections of the document dealing with specific policies there is another great cause for alarm, for Tories as well as Labour politicians.

While Treasury officials see themselves as the high priests

of monetarism and free-market ideology in Whitehall, they differ from genuine Thatcherites in one crucial respect. Whereas the Thatcherites passionately believed that their policies would reverse Britain's long-term economic decline, the Treasury culture glories in defeatism. For the mandarins, the highest aim of policy is not to make Britain economically successful, but to make the public (and above all politicians) understand and accept the inevitability of "managed decline".

The Treasury's pessimism about Britain's long-term future suffices every policy the strategy document touches, from education and teenage pregnancy to environment and trade. But it is on two issues that the next government will have to settle that the Treasury's influence is likely to be greatest and therefore most malign. These are monetary policy and relations with Europe.

On monetary policy, the Treasury accepts without question that the control of interest rates should be transferred from the Chancellor to an independent Bank of England.

Such a transfer would be compulsory if Britain joined the European Monetary Union (and is one of the best arguments against going in). But

amazingly the Treasury asserts that the "case for an independent Bank of England will be stronger if a decision not to join the single currency area is taken". The document adds that Britain would, in any case, probably set its monetary policy to shadow the euro if it did not join EMU.

These sentences show that, like the Bourbons, the mandarins have learnt nothing and forgotten nothing from the experience of shadowing the mark and joining the ERM. Above all, they still seem to believe in their bones that a genuinely independent national economic policy is impossible to pursue for an economy that is intrinsically as small and helpless as Britain.

This message — that Britain is destined to become ever weaker in relation to the rest of the world, regardless of what any government might do — is indeed the *leitmotif* of the whole document. Yet, like so much in the Treasury's document (and indeed in its policy advice) this statement is based on a simple misunderstanding of economics. The Treasury says that by 2115, Britain will inevitably lose its place among the top seven economies in the world. It presents a chart to show that, in 20 years' time China will be the world's largest economy, followed by America, Japan, India, Germany, Brazil and Indonesia.

What the mandarins do not seem to realise, however, is that these figures (produced by the World Bank) do not reflect market exchange rates and thus give no indication of a country's relative significance in the world market. In fact, on the figures used by the Treasury, China is already a bigger economy than Japan and Germany, while India is already as important as Britain. Given that France and Italy are by all measures now bigger economies than Britain, it seems that we have already been jostled out of the first division.

If these figures gave an accurate picture of economic reality then they would represent the best possible argument for locking up the Treasury and throwing the keys in the Thames. Thankfully, all that these figures prove is that the Treasury does not understand economics any better than it appreciates the subtleties of political impartiality. Let us hope that Mr Brown gets the message.

The truth that is stranger than fiction

Alasdair Murray on MGM's purchase by one man, aged 73, for the third time

IT is a story that the script editors at MGM, the grand old film studio, would almost certainly reject as too divorced from reality. At the age of 73, Kirk Kerkorian, the billionaire US businessman, has stolen control of MGM, and its famous roaring lion symbol, from under the nose of some of the world's most powerful entertainment groups.

Written off after his failure to win a \$22 billion battle last year for Chrysler, the US car giant, Mr Kerkorian has answered his legion of critics with the winning \$1.3 billion bid for MGM jointly with its chairman, Frank Mancuso, and Seven Network, the Australian TV company.

Remarkably, it is the third time that Mr Kerkorian has won control of the studio. He has also won the blessing of Credit Lyonnais, the state-owned French bank which is selling it and spent five years suing Mr Kerkorian for alleged fraud after his sale of MGM in 1990, only settling

it when he bought another faded Hollywood giant, United Artists, for \$380 million and merged it with MGM. While Mr Kerkorian's relationship with MGM has baffled observers for almost three decades, it is his interest in Chrysler that brought him notoriety.

Mr Kerkorian first took a stake in the company in December 1990, when it was on the verge of collapse. In April last year, he launched a \$23 billion bid for the company. Facing the hostility of the well-regarded board, he teamed up with Lee Iacocca, the former Chrysler head, to provide credibility for the bid. The move backfired and Mr Kerkorian never managed to put in place the \$10 billion banking facilities needed.

With such an unpredictable track record, it is not surprising that the film industry remains wary of his renewed involvement with MGM. The sale is also likely to face strong opposition in France, which has long been sensitive to the supposed cultural dominance of America and will not welcome the sale of the only leading European-owned studio back to its controversial American former owner while ignoring the claims of Polygram, the Dutch group.



ANNOUNCING

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE SHARE OWNERSHIP

Appointed by the London Stock Exchange to examine all aspects of private share ownership, this committee was briefed to identify how the market could best serve the needs of private investors in future.

The Report details their findings on the need to:

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Mutuality seems better than conversion in the long term

From Mr Matthew Roberts
Sir, The amount of speculation and comment about which building societies will be next to go down the conversion route is enough to make one's head spin. However, few people have brought to light the possible implications and consequences of such mergers.

Paul Mills, an economist at the Treasury, highlighted the following in a paper last month. Whilst depositors with commercial banks (Cooperative Bank excepted) "have no control over whether their

Death in service benefit payments

From Mr Tom Ross
Sir, I note that the article written by Pennington ("A question of trust", July 9) raises doubts about the basis under which death in service benefits are paid by trustees of occupational pension schemes.

Whilst I do not know the details in the mentioned case, I would like to comment on his misconception of how the benefit is governed in funded

occupational pension schemes established under trust. In these schemes (which embrace practically all occupational pension scheme members) the trustees are under an obligation to act in a fiduciary manner in the exercise of their functions.

As Pennington says, for tax reasons the trustees' role is to exercise their discretion over the destination of the amount payable to the nominated beneficiary, although in practice it would normally be the member's nominee who would receive the benefit. It would

not be within the trustees' power to make such a payment to the company employing the deceased.

Special arrangements established by companies for senior executives could possibly operate under different principles. However, members of occupational pension schemes should be assured that this article does not affect them.

Yours faithfully,
TOM ROSS
(Chairman, The National Association of Pension Funds),
12-18 Grosvenor Gardens,
SW1.

Leaders deserve every penny

From Mr Anthony Halperin
Sir, I write in response to G.D.V. Glynn (Business Letters, July 12) in which he carps at the suggestion that leaders of the action groups should receive large sums of money over and above the running costs they have incurred.

As a former member of Lloyd's and a member of the Wellington Action Group, I considered myself lucky that my own losses were small. However, in the early stages of the Lloyd's losses, I can well remember the total despair and shock of thousands of Lloyd's members as major calls arrived on the doorstep.

It was by no means certain that there would have been any settlement but for the perseverance of leaders of the action groups, at that stage voluntary. I for one am grateful for the efforts of the action group leaders. They deserve every penny they have fought so hard for on behalf of all non-working members.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY R. HALPERIN,
Informex Ltd,
25 Basing Hill, NW11.

Bulmer rebrands to meet cider tax

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

HP BULMER, the cider company, said yesterday it will introduce two different-strength versions of its White Lightning brand this autumn, allowing consumers to choose whether to pay higher prices for higher alcohol content.

Bulmer, along with other cider companies, has been forced to alter its branding strategy because of the planned imposition of increased duty on ciders above 7.5 per cent alcohol by volume.

John Rudgard, chief executive, said the company had opted to reduce the alcohol levels in certain ciders to avoid the tax, but would maintain some premium-strength brands to see if there was a market for them after the duty rise takes effect.

Bulmer announced a 10 per cent increase in full-year profits, before exceptional costs, to £27.5 million. Exceptional costs totalled £2.1 million following the £23 million purchase of Inch earlier this year.

Cost savings of £1 million had already been achieved from the Inch acquisition, which was expected to be earnings-enhancing this year.

Bulmer, whose brands include Strongbow, Scrumpy Jack and Woodpecker, recorded a sales rise above the market in both the take-home and on-trade sectors. The company now has a 5.2 per cent share of the total cider market.

The company said it was looking to increase its exports to the US, Finland and Ireland. On-lap sales were performing well in the new markets of Belgium and France.

Bulmer shares rose 3p to close at 589p. The total dividend was increased by 10 per cent to 13.2p.

On current trading sales volume was up some 10 per cent since the financial year-end. Mr Rudgard said, "June was very good," he said.



ANDREW DALTON, above, the managing director, said Robert H. Lowe, the packaging and textile group, sustained its recovery in the six months to April 30 and is paying its first interim dividend in seven years. The group, which produces the football strips for Spain, Liverpool

and Blackburn Rovers, achieved sales of £8.7 million from its textile sector, a rise of 76 per cent. Group turnover was 93 per cent ahead at £13.7 million.

Pre-tax profits rose 70 per cent to £907,000, helped by profits of £164,000 from Majoca, its newly acquired packaging subsidiary. The group said that it was looking for more acquisitions in the packaging sector and was in negotiations with a few private companies. The group declared an interim dividend of 0.1p per share, paid from earnings of 0.88p per share (0.61p).

Unison urges minimum wage of £4.26p an hour

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S trade unions are set for a public dispute over Labour's plans for a national minimum wage, with Unison, the UK's largest union, insisting on proposing a specific minimum of £4.26 an hour in defiance of the party's wishes.

Unison leaders on the TUC's governing executive committee yesterday were unable to agree a statement on the minimum wage to go to the organisation's annual conference in Blackpool in the autumn.

Tony Blair, the Labour Party leader, is insisting that Labour will not set a minimum wage figure in advance of the general election, and TUC leaders are privately striving to avoid their conference doing so. But Unison's

move, which most other unions will have little choice but to support, means that the issue is likely now to provoke a row at the conference — though TUC leaders will try hard before then to find a form of words to avert a public argument.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, yesterday tried at the executive committee meeting to find a way of deferring the issue, including proposing a special conference on it in 18 months' time, but Unison leaders refused to shift from their insistence on a specific figure. Unions such as FBU, the firefighters' grouping, backed Unison, but the TGWU, the large transport union, was more supportive of Mr Monks. TUC leaders

believe that if the unions take a different line to Labour on the minimum wage then not only will the party largely dissociate itself from the unions, but the Government will seize on it and use it against the Labour leadership.

Even so, the unions are determined to keep what argument there is over the minimum wage at the TUC conference rather than see them emerge at Labour's conference a month later in ways that might do greater damage to the party's electoral prospects.

Labour Party leaders will join TUC officials in trying to persuade the unions to avoid setting a specific minimum wage rate. However, the party believes that as Mr Blair is not

addressing the TUC conference, any possible political damage arising from it can be contained within the unions. Mr Blair will attend a dinner at the conference.

The TUC believes that a number of important issues surrounding the minimum wage are not yet resolved, including the timing of its implementation and the legislation to introduce it under an incoming Labour government.

Although the unions yesterday could not agree on a joint statement on the policy of a minimum wage, they decided that the TUC should continue its work on it. However, the sharp differences between the unions are likely to arise again in the run-up to their own annual conferences.

Britannic bounces back with strong rise

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

AFTER two years of tough trading conditions, Britannic Assurance has bounced back to report a strong rise in new business for the first six months, boosted by demand for investment products.

New single-premium business was particularly strong, rising 37 per cent to £65.9 million. Total new regular premiums improved by 11.4 per cent to £19.9 million, and regular-premium pensions business was up 15 per cent to £5.3 million, reversing a downward trend.

Sales of the company's single-premium life assurance bonds improved by 63 per cent to £27.2 million.

Brian Shaw, general manager and actuary of the Birmingham-based life company, said the results were "very pleasing". He added: "Last year was particularly difficult and it is important for us that all areas of business are picking up."

He declined to say when discussions with the Department of Trade and Industry into redistribution of orphan assets would be complete.

"The talks take time and it is crucial we get things right," he said. Mr Shaw is on record as saying he hoped the issue would be resolved by the end of the year.

The life insurer is currently looking at restructuring its 200 branches to cut costs and introduce new technology. Although Britannic's team of financial advisers will be kept on, an unspecified number of back-office staff are likely to go when offices are closed.

Industrial branch collectable business was nearly 14 per cent higher at £8.7 million. Britannic said increased sales of pension annuities at £8.1 million accounted for higher single-premium business and was evidence of a rapidly growing market for the product.

In October, Britannic is entering the potentially lucrative health insurance market with the launch of a range of critical-illness products. The company stopped selling motor policies in January because of intense competition from direct writers. Existing motor policyholders will be covered until renewal.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

First Technology off to a record start

FIRST TECHNOLOGY, the automotive electronics company that specialises in crash and safety testing, said the current year had started well, with record order books. In the year to April 30 the company lifted pre-tax profits to £7.3 million (£6.3 million) on turnover of £38.8 million (£32.9 million). A final dividend of 5.3p a share, payable October 15, lifts the total to 8.5p (7p). Earnings rose to 30.07p a share (26.46p).

The company ended the year with net cash of £1.13 million after £3 million of capital expenditure. Dr Fred Westlake, chairman, said there had been strong growth in sales of fuel cut-off sensors. The safety and analysis division saw overall sales grow 30 per cent, with a 75 per cent rise in continental Europe. The shares rose 10p to 509p.

ScottishPower cuts issue

SCOTTISHPOWER, the generator and distributor which is in the process of taking over Southern Water, yesterday halved the number of new shares made available from the rights issue for Southern Water shareholders. After take-ups under the share alternative amounted to just under 100 million by Tuesday, the first closing date for the offer, the company cut the new shares available under the rights issue from 235.7 million to 116.1 million.

Accountancy pay boost

TRENDS in salaries for accountants and other financial staff are now on track for a return to the boom times of late 1980s, according to the latest six-monthly survey from Hays Accountancy Personnel. It shows that average pay awards across the business have risen an average of 4.1 per cent in the first half of the year. The salaries of newly and part-qualified accountants show an average rise of 7.1 per cent.

Alitalia rescue planned

ALITALIA, the Italian flag carrier, will show a 1.2 trillion lire (£509 million) loss in 1996 after restructuring costs, its ninth straight year of losses. Michele Tedeschi, chairman of IRI, the holding company, told a parliamentary committee in Rome that this included 800 billion lire of restructuring charges. He said IRI would inject 1.5 trillion lire of fresh funds in a planned 3.135 trillion lire capital increase to rescue the airline, with the rest coming from the private sector.

Body Shop Austria push

BODY SHOP plans to open 34 more branches across Austria, taking its total to 50 stores by 2000. Hans-Peter Sockel, general director of Body Shop Austria, said he also plans to launch a mail order service to reach smaller towns and villages. "We have only exhausted about 4 per cent of the possible market in Austria," Herr Sockel said. Half of the existing branches are located in the Vienna metropolitan area, in eastern Austria.

Worthington advances

WORTHINGTON GROUP, the supplier of clothing accessories, defied difficult trading conditions in the retail sector to increase profits to £2.01 million before tax, from £1.79 million previously, in the year to March 31. Earnings rose to 5.7p a share from 5.2p. A final dividend of 1.7p a share, due October 2, lifts the total to 2.5p a share from 2.2p. The company said costs had been tightly controlled, enabling operating profits to rise to £2.35 million from £2.13 million.

ACCOUNTANCY

Getting the measure of goodwill

Peter Holgate takes a look at the Accounting Standards Board's latest proposals for reform

HIGH on most accountants' shortlists of knotty problems is the nature and accounting treatment of goodwill — that most intangible of items that arises when one company acquires another and cannot attribute all of the purchase price to conventional assets.

Goodwill is the excess, the unanalysable residue — and in spite of many years of study, accountants are still not really sure what to do with it.

Accounting for goodwill and the related question of intangibles is on the agenda of the Accounting Standards Board (ASB), which has just published its latest proposals in the form of FRED 12.

It is easy to see why reform is needed. The present rules on goodwill (SSAP 22) allow considerable flexibility. Nearly all UK companies write off goodwill immediately to reserves. This depletes shareholders' funds, but avoids a hit against earnings. A very few opt for capitalising goodwill as an asset and amortising it against earnings, but it is untenable for such diverse treatments to be allowed, especially when the more popular is in direct conflict with practice overseas.

The ASB has spent a great amount of time considering the options, and this has included field-testing the proposals with some large companies and holding public

hearings. FRED 12 is the result. Its key proposals are:
□ Goodwill would be treated as an asset on the balance sheet; immediate write-off would be ruled out. This key change could significantly boost the balance sheets of many British companies.

□ Intangibles would be treated the same way as goodwill — hence there would little or no advantage from calling goodwill a specific intangible.

□ Goodwill should be recognised as an asset only after an acquisition.

□ Intangible assets obtained as part of an acquisition should be recognised separately from goodwill, provided they can be measured reliably. □ Goodwill and intangibles would, in principle, be subject to amortisation against earnings, but the details of this would vary: there is a rebuttable presumption that the useful life does not exceed 20 years.

Where this is so, the goodwill or intangibles should be amortised over the estimated life: where it is believed that the useful life is more than 20 years, but the value is not significant or is not expected to be capable of continued measurement, it should be amortised over 20 years.

Where it is believed to have a useful life of over 20 years, and its value is significant and



Peter Holgate believes that reform on the issue is needed

is expected to be capable of continued measurement, it should be amortised over the estimated useful life or, if this is indefinite, not amortised at all. Impairment reviews would have to be carried out annually. (The objective of the impairment test is to establish whether the carrying value of the asset is overstated. If it is, the asset would have to be written down by charging profits.)

The FRED 12 ideas have been known in outline since last summer. The key feature was thought to be that it was not necessary to amortise goodwill and intangibles. And indeed this feature is present, but it will not arise as often as had been anticipated — or hoped.

The combined effect of the proposed rules appears to leave the prospect of nil-amortisation applying only where the useful life is indefinite: the acquired goodwill can continue to be measured separately from the goodwill of the

existing operations; and the annual impairment test indicates that there has been no impairment.

These occasions are likely to be few. This may disappoint some companies but:

□ Non-amortisation can be adopted only by invoking "true and fair override", which can properly be invoked only in the special circumstances of a particular company. It would not be a valid use of the override if the ASB were to propose its use in a wide range of circumstances.

□ Amortisation is international practice. So the rarer the non-amortisation, the closer will FRED 12 be to international harmonisation.

□ The ASB intends the impairment test to be rigorous — not a "back of the envelope calculation".

□ Even if the impairment tests are carried out rigorously and realistically, there is already evidence of scepticism on the part of analysts and other users about nil-amortisation.

This may leave us with amortisation being very much the rule and the alluring non-amortisation being very much the rarity — a possibility for those who can afford to invest the time in the impairment tests and whose commercial strategies are to keep their acquisitions separate. As there may be very few in this category, the dream ticket of boosting the balance sheet while not hitting earnings may be something of an illusion.

Peter Holgate is accounting technical partner with Coopers & Lybrand.

Changes spurring the exercise of judgment

THE EFFECTS of gradual change tend to arrive with a bump, usually when least expected. For people in the financial reporting community there were three very solid events in the last week that showed in quite a startling way how change has come about even though many had hardly noticed it.

The first event was the publication of the new edition of Terry Smith's famous demolition work on creative accounting, *Accounting For Growth*. When the first edition appeared in 1992 there was uproar. The book showed how many creative accounting loopholes many of the best-known companies were using. The spotlight was turned on the auditors; they were to blame. This time the book produces just as many examples of well-known companies being somewhat economical with the truth, but the analysts get it in the neck.

The change is that when the first edition came out the revolution that Sir David Tweedie and the Accounting Standards Board (ASB) have wrought was just under way — the obvious loopholes have been closed; and, secondly, the rules have focused on forcing people to look harder at what the figures mean. This alters the balance.

Careless investors can no longer simply blame auditors for any losses; they can have only themselves to blame. In Smith's new chapter on earnings per share and the profit and loss account, he makes it plain how far the Tweedie insistence on eliminating one single magic number and, instead, forcing users of accounts to weigh up the information for themselves has changed things. Investors, concludes Smith, "should look at the company's earnings performance from several directions, and attempt to value the company in the light of the fluctuations in its reported profits rather than in spite of them".

The second event that shows how much things have changed is the ASB progress paper on its "Statement of Principles for Financial Reporting" — the document that Ernest & Young lambasted when it was first published. As the ASB preface says: "Some of the misunderstandings were expressed by those who apparently had not actually read the draft itself." The E&Y attack flushed out many of the old-style knee-jerk reactions from financial directors. This is the argument about why cannot we simply have rules for every contingency rather than principles, which mean that someone else's opinion might disagree with ours.

The original ASB document had drawn the venom. This time the ASB could simply emphasise that "bedrock notions such as true and fair, accruals and going concern are and will remain part of the framework". It also emphasises that the idea of some form of current cost accounting, which horrifies so many of the profession, "is not on our agenda". But what is plainly on the agenda and what lies in with Terry Smith's book is that the battle over rules versus principles has been won. Smith's arguments are based on the idea that people, whether auditors, finance directors or investors, should use judgment. They do not think much of rules. As Smith points out over and over again, rules do not stop people bending them or finding loopholes.

The Tweedie revolution has stopped much of the old 1980s methods of finding a way of disguising management failure. But, as Smith's book shows, there are new 1990s methods of achieving the same ends. But it is investors who should be providing guidance. And it is the analysts who should be aware of fancy footwork in a company's accounts. All the best wheezes are legal and fit the rules. In a formal sense auditors are powerless on such occasions. Informally they should be putting the pressure on. But that is much more likely if the users of accounts have taken the trouble to press companies on the dubious points themselves.

The third sign of change is in the form of the ASB's proposals on derivatives and other financial instruments, which are published today. In the old days the emphasis would have been on getting the document sorted out as a matter of urgency and the accounting, given the complexity and likelihood of a thousand and one conflicting views being urged on the ASB, will follow some years after. "The first concern about preventing accounting and disclosure practices," as the ASB says, "is that many derivatives are not shown in the accounts at all." Disclosure, which the ASB hopes will be voluntarily introduced almost immediately, will do the work of altering the world to what is at stake.

Then the arguments on the principles of trying to pin the accounting down will follow more naturally. In some ways the derivatives programme is the first real beneficiary of the revolution. People will be arguing about what it all really means instead of losing themselves in futile rules.



ROBERT BRUCE

Out of the firing line

THE first edition of Terry Smith's *Accounting For Growth* was famous, among other things, for its blubs. Smith analysed the accounts of the UK's top companies and awarded them a "blub" for each creative accounting method used. In the new edition, published today, there are no blubs. Smith reckoned they diverted people's attention from the need for good

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

analysis of accounts. It is a shame. The blubs may have led to public humiliation for a company, but often internally they were the reason for private jubilation. One finance director told Smith that he had been hauled in by his chairman and asked how many blubs the company would have been awarded. "If there are more than nine you are fired," the chairman said. "But

if there are less than two then you are also fired."

Changing ways

HAYS Accountancy Personnel's latest salary survey suggests you can have it both ways. It reports rocketing salaries and high demand for accountants and says we are seeing a return to the Eighties boom days. But there is one

difference. "Graduates," it says, "are less arrogant and better prepared." Surely not.

Late payers

IT IS always good to have old prejudices reinforced. Grant Thornton's annual European Business Survey provides much pan-European food for thought. When it comes to late payments Italy remains at the

head of the league, followed closely by Greece and Spain. And the latest payers, as you might expect, are all those serious Scandinavians, with the Finns in the lead. But on other questions, expectations are turned on their head. A new question asks about women in management. The UK has the highest proportion of companies with women in their management teams and The Netherlands the lowest, closely followed by Sweden.

ROBERT BRUCE

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 18 1996

THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 18 1996

The old can still co



FILM 1
Fun, romance and heavy petting in the likeable *Truth About Cats & Dogs*



FILM 2
Happy Gilmore, the comedy about golf, swings in at somewhere around par for the course

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3
Les Apprentis offers patient viewers a Gallic ramble of the most vacuous nature



FILM 4
In pursuit of gay sex in Los Angeles: *Hustler White* leaves little to the imagination

CINEMA: In an otherwise dreary week, Geoff Brown warms to the fine acting in *The Truth About Cats & Dogs*

Old hat, but in a bright new style

I am five foot ten, blonde, hard to miss, our veterinarian heroine says as she arranges to meet a grateful listener to her Los Angeles radio talk show. In fact she's short, dark and a little dumpy: not someone who would stand out in a crowd. But where would Hollywood romantic comedies be without mistaken identities? Or the plot of *Cyrano de Bergerac*? Originality, as you see, plays little part in *The Truth About Cats & Dogs*, although the film, directed by Michael Lehmann, deserves a warm reception for its agreeable performers and genial tone.

Over the microphone, the radio vet Dr Abbey Barnes, endearingly played by Janeane Garofalo, appears wise and witty. Off-air, she turns her wit against herself and leads a lonely life cosseting a cat or playing her violin. The person who actually fits her fetching description is Uma Thurman's Noelle Silversky, her neighbour, a friendly if crannily challenged model anxious for a better life as a television newsreader. You expect comic disaster from Garofalo, a practiced comedian who stole the film *Bye Bye Love* with her caricature of a disastrous blind date, but Thurman shines equally well, and breathes real life into someone who could easily seem a shallow airhead.

The triangle is completed by the photographer who pursues Noelle, believing she is Abbey; this role is filled by Ben Chaplin, the latest Brit to invade America's hearts following the Hugh Grant epidemic. On this showing Chaplin's acting skills appear nothing out of the ordinary (he does better in *Feast of July*, released last week); but you can understand the appeal to foreign eyes as he stands, curly-headed, flashing dark eyes, pitching his lines with gawky charm and an array of London vowels. In some scenes it is hard to decide who is being cuter, Chaplin or the large dog that licks faces and rolls on its back.

Audrey Wells's script never jumps from tracks that were well worn 30 years ago. The feminist angle is strictly superficial, although the degree of bonding between Abbey and her glamorous stand-in does go beyond the expected. Unusual, too, to find such material put in the hands of Michael Lehmann, subversive director of the teen comedy *Heathers*, although since he lost his footing on misbegotten ventures such as *Hudson Hawk*, he probably thought that coddling up to conventions was the best way to regain his balance.

Bob Hope plays golf regularly. W.C. Fields fashioned an elaborate routine out of hitting a golf ball, and put it on film in *The Golf Specialist*. But you rarely think of golf as a profitable source for comedy. *Happy Gilmore*, a vehicle for the comic Adam Sandler, and a film marginally better than expected, gives you some of the reasons why.

For what can you make jokes about in golf? The balls can land on people's heads (this happens three times in the early stages), or plop underwater. The caddy can be obstructive. Fields's caddy had squeaky shoes. Sandler starts out with a bizarre spindly specimen with curly blond hair, and then graduates to someone hairy and

are told a soft heart lies within: he wants to come top on the professional golf tour to win enough money to save granny's house from the oily clutches of a golfing rival, played by Christopher McDonald. But the person we see for 90 per cent of the time is a short-tempered oik with a whiny voice, not a person you warm to. Any sympathies are directed instead at sportsman-turned-actor Carl Weathers, who plays Gilmore's mentor and is given a ludicrous false hand, much abused as the film proceeds. Oh well. Bad though *Happy Gilmore* is, I could easily imagine it being worse.

This week in London there are no rousing alternatives to Hollywood product. Watching *Les Apprentis*, for instance, offers the kind of excitement experienced when you watch a pigeon's perambulations in a park. First it lumbers this way, then that. A peck at this blade of grass, a peck at that. Does the pigeon know where it's heading? No; and neither does Pierre Salvadori's film.

His characters equally have no sense of direction. Francois Cluzet's Antoine wishes to be a serious playwright, but expends his energies on hack assignments and fretting over his personal life; while Guillaume Depardieu (son of you know who) is good for nothing but lounging about their shared apartment.

Salvadori's previous film, *Wild Target*, coasted along on featherweight black comedy and the veteran skills of Jean Rochefort. But there is little to keep his second film moving. One scene refuses to lead into the next; a plot about crime briefly ignites, sputters, then dies. Sparse incidental music adds to the hollow atmosphere. A few stretches raise a small smile — there is an amusing seduction scene between Guillaume and Claire Laroche — but even the most rabid fan of Gallic cinema will find *Les Apprentis* a particularly blank offering.

The target audience for *Hustler White* — gay and male — may also be disappointed: not so much by the graphic content, but by the drooping drama, the lack of humour, and the utterly artless way in which cult director Bruce LaBruce and his photographer cohort Rick Castro shoved their images of LA sex hustlers on to the screen. The plot pursues a surly foreign visitor (LaBruce himself) as he trawls Santa Monica Boulevard and longs

homeless. You can make cute remarks about golfing attire: the dazzling blazers, the tartan pants. Along the way you can smear sponsors' trademarks all over the screen. All that done, you are left with what can seem to outside observers a peculiarly monotonous spectacle: little balls being driven or tapped into little holes.

So, to sustain itself over 90 minutes, *Happy Gilmore* brings other material into play. Class conflict, for instance. Gilmore is a blue-collar fellow, used to whacking shots on an ice-hockey rink. Golf represents the Establishment, and the film, directed by Dennis Dugan (*Problem Child*), pitches itself at those who would appreciate seeing a roughneck let loose on manicured lawns.

The film also plays heavily on Gilmore's personality. A dangerous game, this, as Sandler's character is petulant and prone to violence: indeed, his actions accidentally lead to two characters' deaths. True, we

homeless. You can make cute remarks about golfing attire: the dazzling blazers, the tartan pants. Along the way you can smear sponsors' trademarks all over the screen. All that done, you are left with what can seem to outside observers a peculiarly monotonous spectacle: little balls being driven or tapped into little holes.

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Uma Thurman and Janeane Garofalo are both on excellent form in *The Truth About Cats & Dogs*

for the body of beefcake model Tony Ward. A foot is amputated; chests get burnt and teased with a razor. Other sights are beyond description. Cheering to find the love story reaching a happy ending: otherwise *Hustler White* offers nothing but torture.

Out of London, the film scene looks brighter. The Cambridge Film Festival, now in its 20th edition, is up and running at the Arts Cinema (01223 504444), offering 40 British premieres of the best exhibits from Cannes, Berlin and

the other festival showcases. Some titles are set for commercial release, although at the moment there seem no takers for Benoit Jacquot's memorable *A Single Girl* (showing on Sunday night) or Arnaud Desplechin's discursive, talky and oddly compelling *How I Got into an Argument* (Tuesday).

The festival ends on July 28 with Susan Stretfield's *Female Perversions*: not a title to pique my interest after *Hustler White*. But behind it lies an elegant, provocative film, well worth exploring.

Tilda Swinton takes the lead as an American lawyer on the edge of a big career leap. Stretfield's mission is to examine gender stereotypes and the pressures they generate. A recipe for a dry feminist sermon? Not at all. Swinton's extraordinary presence, the script's cool intelligence, and the dazzling visual designs by Gus Van Sant regular Missy Stewart help to create the ideal festival offering: a film far too specialised to reach the multiplexes, and far too interesting to languish unseen.

'Ideal for a girls' night in'

SNAP VERDICT

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS & DOGS
Ben Wright, 21: I normally can't stand romantic comedies, especially American ones, but this was reasonably amusing.
Suzie Clay, 22: Men who like dumb blondes and Uma Thurman will love this; I found it a little bit schmaltzy.
Simon Thomas, 19: I thought Janeane Garofalo was very funny; she'll go far.
Naomi Smith, 20: This was great. I can't wait to get it on video; it's ideal for a girls' night in.

HAPPY GILMORE
Ben: This was pretty dreadful; predictable American pap that made me laugh about twice — but not for long.
Suzie: I felt that I had seen too many golf balls land on people's heads in Tom and Jerry cartoons. Enjoyably mindless nonetheless.
Simon: I would not exactly recommend this, but if you were in a nothing sort of mood and had little else to do, then it's probably worth forking out for.
Naomi: I was quite impressed that a film about golf managed to hold my attention, even though the humour was a bit old.

HUSTLER WHITE
Ben: This was fairly revolting. Call me a young fogey, but I'm not really into amputations and rough trade, so this was hardly the film for me.
Suzie: Despite the somewhat shocking subject matter, I quite liked the grungy feel and grittiness of it.
Simon: Although this film seems to be intended for gay people, I don't think that people who aren't should be put off. It certainly opened my eyes.
Naomi: Some of the S&M scenes are pretty sick.

The old chef can still cook

BLUES

Otis Rush
Mean Fiddler.
NW10



Otis Rush: Chicago legend blew London fans away

THIS was a gig to be approached with caution. Guitarist and singer Otis Rush was widely considered to be one of the most talented and certainly one of the most influential of the new generation of artists who dominated the Chicago blues world in the late 1950s. But after bursting on the scene with a clutch of classic songs such as *I Can't Quit You Baby* and *Double Trouble*, it all seemed to go wrong. His immense gifts were squandered on indifferent recordings and lacklustre live dates.

But spread the good news: this was a bluesman, if not at the height of his powers (at 62, it's impossible to turn the clock back quite that far), then in full command of them. Dressed in a suit and the stetson which now appears obligatory for senior bluesmen, he opened with *Crosscut Saw* before revisiting one of his biggest hits, *All Your Love* — and not just revisiting it, but turning it into a showpiece for his controlled yet distinctive guitar licks, allied to his strong and soulful vocals.

Then came a rocking *Homework*, a classic song he first cut in 1962, followed by the blues ballad that could be a summary of Rush's troubled career.

Right Place, Wrong Time. He was able to bring to the song, and to several other slow numbers, the kind of vocal and instrumental eloquence that lesser artists can spend a lifetime trying to achieve. It would be trite to say he made it look simple. Perhaps it was just a case of less effort, more results.

It helped immeasurably, too, that he brought with him a strong and tight American backing band, with a rhythm section more solid than Gibraltar. But best of all was the fact that Rush was obviously enjoying himself. This wasn't a duty, this wasn't a chore, this was pure pleasure.

The number of stars from the golden age of Chicago blues is diminishing rapidly. We should cherish those that remain.

JOHN CLARKE

RADIO: Scintillating Asian comedy, and a rare politician worthy of respect

WHEN Radio 4 announced "Britain's first all-Asian comedy series", the temptation arose to run for cover and wait until it was all over. Attempts to satisfy minority ethnic audiences have often embarrassed the community concerned and left the wider audience none the wiser. But *Goodness Gracious Me* (Fridays) is a triumph, a truly witty show. You are left wondering why it has been given only four episodes, of which the third arrives this week.

Circumstances obliged me not to review the show before now, which turns out to be a happy accident, because the quality of the series as a whole is now apparent.

Neither of the stools between which most of these projects fall is apparent here: there is no attempt to make comedy purely for an Asian audience, nor does the show exploit the Asian community for a non-Asian audience.

As with all the best comedy,

Racial equality of laughter

the funniest moments involve showing stereotypes through a distorting mirror. Hence the Asian family, going out in Bombay for "an English" and

the blandest dish on the menu.

There is a telling sequence with an Indian family on holiday in London. An attempt at bartering brought this response from a Cockney: "Look, the *Daily Mirror* costs 30p and that's that." And the Indian family's patriarch, surveying the streets of London, wonderfully

inverts the image of the white man in Calcutta: "I knew there was so much of it".

Goodness Gracious Me takes its title from the 1960s novelty song recorded by Peter Sellers and Sophia Loren. The show is written by British Asians and produced by Anil Gupta and Gareth Edwards. Gupta, a television producer, had the original idea and it deserves a transfer to television, a medium in which Asians are all but invisible.

'The show deserves a transfer to television'

Empty vessel, beguiling noise

OPERA

Vanitas Almeida

AMONG the richly varied fare on offer at this summer's Almeida Opera Festival, nothing is quite as esoteric as Salvatore Sciarrino's *Vanitas*. In its first British performance on Tuesday, *Vanitas* lived up to both its Latin title ("Emptiness"), and subtitle of "Still Life in One Act", revealing its Sicilian composer in navel-gazing mode.

Not that it is boring: at 50 minutes' duration, this song-cycle opera is too short to pall. But it is numbingly slow and unvaried, the opposite of Kagel's *Vanité*, which has also been included in this Almeida season and which shared the bill at the premiere of *Vanitas* in Milan 15 years ago.

Sciarrino (born in 1947) is a limited but canny composer, one of the few to have made computer music sound poetic and the only one with enough chutzpah to have written another *Lohengrin*; even when, as in *Vanitas*, his music is undramatic, it somehow remains theatrical.

Surrealist images abound in *Vanitas*, relating to roses and the colour red. Its six continuous movements are based on fragmentary texts in English,

French, German, Italian and Latin — though most of the words are, hard to follow. Scoring is for voice, piano and cello, and the singer's melismatic figure heard in the first movement against steady piano chords becomes an obsessive leitmotif. Instrumental outbursts, especially scatterings of notes on the piano, feature in this music too, but none disturb its slow underlying pulse. With the exception of ghostly slithering and scraping on the cello, few of the effects are interesting in themselves — but they combine with hypnotic results.

Although *Vanitas* was staged (with mimes) at its premiere, its song-cycle structure supports "straight" con-

cert presentation. The Almeida's performance came somewhere in between the two possibilities, and in doing so at least avoided the pseudery which must be a danger lurking behind any full production. Angela Davies designed a shaft of "floating" red roses around which Paul Russell provided atmospheric lighting, while the three performers faded in and out of darkness.

Susan Bickley's silken mezzo brought lyricism to the vocal lines, and the pianist Rolf Hind and cellist Frances Marie Uitti dispatched Sciarrino's strangely compelling music with aplomb.

JOHN ALLISON

"THE ROCK DELIVERS!"

EMPIRE

"This is the team-spirit action movie *Mission: Impossible* should have been."

TIME

"Cage & Connery make a fine double act, swift, loud and undeniably gripping."

DAILY TELEGRAPH

SEAN CONNERY NICOLAS CAGE ED HARRIS



AT CINEMAS NOW



PUBLISHING
Narratives for
nippers: Philip
Pullman wins the
Carnegie Medal
for Children's
Literature



THEATRE 1
*The Philadelphia
Story* puts
Manchester's
bombed Royal
Exchange back
in business

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 2
*The Memory of
Water* marks
the debut of
a notable new
dramatist. Shelagh
Stephenson



THEATRE 3
An early
James Baldwin
story, *Giovanni's
Room*, is brought
to the stage
at the Drill Hall

Writing for the young is a demanding career, the Carnegie Medal-winning Philip Pullman tells Nicolette Jones

What shall we tell the children?

Philip Pullman, whose novel *Northern Lights* won the prestigious Carnegie Medal for children's literature yesterday, said at the prize-giving ceremony that children's fiction is a better medium for serious writers than adult fiction, because "only in children's literature is the story taken seriously". The wisdom, he says, lies in the story, not in commentary or in philosophic interludes. "As Isaac

Bashevis Singer said in one of his stories, 'events never stale'."

Pullman argues, moreover, that children's authors are neither, as some seem to believe, dilettantes writing as a genteel pastime, nor emotionally arrested inhabitants of Wendy houses. Catering for children is not in itself childish: "Paediatricians have no less training than other kinds of doctors," he points out. Certainly *Northern Lights*, his prize-winning novel, blurs the distinction between adult and children's fiction. In America it is being sold as an adult novel, although here it is being marketed for children aged 12 and over. It is sophisticated, substantial — not only because it is 400 pages long — emotionally involving and full of potent images. *Northern Lights* is in fact only the first part of a trilogy which will fill some 1,200 pages and takes its title from Milton. *His Dark Materials* is a reference to the stuff from which the Almighty can create new worlds, just as Pullman has done. The trilogy owes a further debt to *Paradise Lost*, partly because the theme of original sin underlies it and partly because Pullman realised that Milton used pictorial equivalents to

convey states of mind; it gave him the idea of doing the same. "If the pictorial equivalent has to be ten feet high and have wings, so be it."

The principal pictorial equivalent of an abstract idea in Pullman's world is the fact that every human being in his novel has a constant companion a "daemon", a soul in animal form. Children's daemons change constantly, but they take a fixed shape when they grow up — and not always the form the adult would like most. "There's plenty of folk as'd like to have a lion as a daemon and they end up with a poodle," one character tells us. "And till they learn to be satisfied with what they are, they're going to be fretful about it. Waste of feeling, that is."

Among Pullman's other metaphorical inventions are articulate bears in armour and a pocket-sized piece of brass and crystal machinery that measures truth — all of which makes *Northern Lights* qualify as a fantasy novel. But if this makes you think of standard sub-Tolkien elfin exploits expressed in arch archaisms, think again. *Northern Lights* is an original. It is an adventure story with a 12-year-old heroine about a terrible threat to children. It is set in a universe parallel to ours, which broke away and developed independently so that it has characteristics of both the past and the future. Its unreality is underpinned by historical verity, and a narrative that is unerringly cohesive. Nothing in it is arbitrary.

Pullman, who started his writing career with two novels for adults, came into children's literature



"I'd go on the dole rather than be a teacher now," says Philip Pullman, who gave up being one, and then a college lecturer, in order to devote himself to writing

because, as a middle-school teacher, he discovered how much he enjoyed writing the schools plays, some of which have since been worked up into children's novels. He also used to recount the tales of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* to his pupils, which refined his talent for narrative.

He then spent eight years lecturing at Westminster College, Oxford, and one of his academic specialisations was oral story-telling. Each of his lectures began with telling a story. The experience, he says, taught him timing and the need to cut out anything that might lose the audience.

Pullman believes that one of the many subtle functions of children's literature is to teach them about

growing up and about being human. He also believes that the kind of lessons it imparts are stifled by the National Curriculum, and the compulsion to teach only what is testable. The tests themselves, he says, measure "nothing the teachers didn't already know about the children", and are really "a way of testing the teachers" in an atmosphere of mistrust. "I'd go on the dole rather than be a teacher now," he says. "It's desperate."

With half a dozen books and several prizes behind him, he has given up lecturing in order to write. He works in a shed at the end of his Oxford garden, surrounded by instruments (his elder son is a musician), and a collection of travellers'

memorabilia. He had a rootless and peripatetic childhood because his father and stepfather were both airmen.

Given the place of flying in his past it is ironic that, when asked what his own daemon would be, he chooses a bird. "Ravens are thought of as tricksters in America; so I like the idea of being a raven." His alter ego might be devious, but his books suggest that his talent is no con.

● The Carnegie Medal is judged by librarians and administered by the Library Association. The prize is the medal and £1,000 worth of books, to be given to the organisation of the winner's choice by Peters Library Service. ● *Northern Lights* is reviewed on Sunday in the Weekend Times

THEATRE: Unbowed in Manchester; unconvincing gay drama; and unbridled tragi-comic laughs

Prancing out of the rubble

A LINE of boards blocks off the St Ann's Square entrance to the Royal Exchange and you cannot even get into the section of Cross Street where the front entrance is. Broken glass and plaster dust are said to have fallen everywhere inside the building, although the theatre itself is thought to be undamaged, held within its cat's cradle of steel rods in the centre of the main hall. The damage done to the building by the IRA bomb five weeks ago has yet to be revealed — a statement is due next week — but it may be two years before the Royal Exchange Company is putting on plays in the place that gave it its name.

A closure for refurbishment was being planned anyway, to build a studio theatre and do up the peripheral rooms. Closure has just come a year earlier, but not to the company. At the other end of Deansgate in a disused fruit market, the company's Mobile Theatre has been erected under the glass and girdered roof. The theatre seats 400 instead of the 700 in the abandoned building because, while the stage dimensions and ground floor seating are the same, the two upper galleries are absent.

Because the dimensions emphasise the horizontal instead of the vertical, the stage seems bigger than before. The

The Philadelphia Story
Royal Exchange
Mobile, Manchester

feel of the place is welcoming. As is often the case after disasters, the company pulses with energy. And its first production here is a triumph. Philip Barry's 1928 play was filmed with Katharine Hepburn and later turned into a musical as *High Society*. Divorced rich girl is about to marry a prig. Two reporters come to do a hatchet job on the landed classes, and not till the end can you be sure which of three men (prig, male reporter, former husband) Barry will lead his heroine towards.

A sub-plot introducing some public-spirited blackmail is needlessly complicated but this scarcely matters because the charm of the play lies in its wittily civilised back-chat and the portrait of an opinionated young woman who changes herself for the better.

The American actress Jordan Baker began on a sharp note but by the pivotal, pool-side act was showing the character's anxious puzzlement. It is important that we see her vulnerability, and Baker's wide-searching eyes



Rich kid: Jordan Baker shows excellent comic acting

allow us to do this, and her last-act entrance, glazed with drink, sometimes on all fours, is excellent comic acting. Her compatriot Josephine Abady, the play's director, has evidently taken in her stride all the unplanned distractions of her British debut. Her production has an open feel, with the agitation of some characters set against the calm, sassy and classy, of others. Playing the hard (but

Guilty parties

JAMES BALDWIN's novel about an American in Paris was a bold postwar portrait of the griefs inflicted on the gay life when homosexuality was kept in the closet. Though rather weakly dramatised here by Out And Proud Ltd, *Giovanni's Room* still pointedly explores the damage done by David, the American, who cannot confess he is bisexual.

Suffering from confused feelings, conformism and misconceptions of moral wrong, David devastates the lives of both his fiancée Hella and Giovanni, the devoted barman whom he takes as a lover while away from home. Though he does share a tiny apartment with Giovanni for some time, he unconsciously blinds him when David's prospective wife returns. Hella, hurt by dishonesty, eventually packs her bags as David zigzags desperately between women and men.

Meanwhile Giovanni, abandoned and reduced to poverty, crawls back to his callous boss, Guillaume, who sexually abuses him then callously announces there is no post for his former employee. Giovanni kills Guillaume. Racked by guilt, David blames himself for this crime. Moreover David's real vice has been not carnally embracing a man but being incapable of real love and commitment.

The snag with this production is that the emotions are on the surface, the very fault Baldwin was criticising. Maia Guest's production is tinged

Giovanni's Room
Drill Hall, WCI

with sentimentality. The trauma Baldwin's love triangle endures, veering between ardour, anger and intense insecurity, have to be from the gut. Only Peter Gaitens's David demonstrates this distress, tearing up telegrams with shaky fingers. Ed Vassallo's muscle-bound Giovanni can shift between potential violence and vulnerable clutchiness but he and David rely too heavily on the mutual rapping of jawlines. Supposedly sincere passion is hard to distinguish from shallow cliché. Baldwin is partly to blame. His characters' speeches can sound hackneyed.

Still, Christopher Oram's set strikingly cramps the protagonists in a narrow corridor, up against the stony wall. They are often under the supercilious eye of Guillaume, Benet Bourne injecting some venomous swish into the part. The cast's stylised staging is occasionally telling. As David slumps over letters from his conscience-racking father and fiancée, the latter's depressing spirit stands at his elbow, obligingly pouring him glass after glass of wine in which he drowns his sorrows. Sweet-voiced Kristen Marks meanwhile interweaves bluesy jazz numbers, evoking nostalgia but with a bitter edge.

KATE BASSETT

But the play is seldom at its worst and reassuringly often at its best. Not many dramatists have as sharp an eye for the quirks of character as Stephenson, and still fewer are so adroit when it comes to turning comic dialogue. If I did not care very much about their fate, I laughed and laughed at individual members of Terry Johnson's cast, down to Dermot Crowley's wonderfully morose Frank, who has returned in midwinter to his mother-in-law's funeral from a business trip to Düsseldorf which ended in a 14-hour flight mostly spent in the company of "a woman from Carlisle who runs a puppet theatre for the deaf".

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MUSIC FESTIVALS

No queues for almost-Mozart

Van Swieten Quartet
St Olave's Church,
York

THE York Early Music Festival, it seemed, had caught the public imagination at last. "Decades of Change: 1,000 years of 90s" is scarcely a slogan to inspire a traffic jam from the bypass to the city centre, but there it was: solid, hot and unmoving. Illusions evaporated half an hour later at the Racecourse, where the coaches turned off, and half an hour later again at St Olave's Church, where the Van Swieten Quartet was running in the 12.30 with a handicap of variable tuning and a mere handful of punters to greet its British debut.

A programme including Mozart's last quartet, which is just within the "90s" theme of the festival, might have brought a little more of the traffic to Marygate. What the Van Swieten Quartet actually had to offer was a tantalisingly devised concert of not-quite Mozart, beginning with pre-Mozart examples of quartet preludes and fugues by Gregor Werner and Sallier's teacher, Florian Leopold Gassmann.

The nearest approach to Mozart was Franz Danzi's String Quartet, Op 6 No 1, which delightfully turned out to be variations on

themes from *The Marriage of Figaro* and which demonstrated just as much affection for the melodies as professional skill in exploiting their popularity. It was rewarding, too, to hear a string quartet made for Josef Leopold Eybler — the composer who, invited before Schubert to complete Mozart's Requiem, had the good taste to realise he was not up to it. What he lacked, or so it seems from his Op 1 No 1, was the contrapuntal knowledge fundamental to the task. He did, on the other hand, have a gift for string colouring, as his poetically scored slow movement shows, and he lacked nothing in style. That much was clear from a performance which, in spite of failures in first-violin intonation exceeding the allowance usually made for gut strings, was both imaginative and adept.

GERALD LARNER

Head over heart

Ricardo Castro
Chester Town Hall

RICARDO Castro is a very well organised pianist. Gerald Lerner writes: just the sort to keep his cool in an important international competition and to win through largely by doing nothing wrong, as when he took the first prize in Leeds. Three years later he is still cool and still impressive. But, as the response of a capacity audience at the Chester Summer Music Festival demonstrated, he is not unexciting.

His Beethoven interpretation at the beginning was a clear warning that we should expect nothing very demonstrative from him. We should listen instead for clarity, for precise balance, for finely drawn melodic phrasing, for sensitivity to harmonic rather than dramatic events. In a work as inspired as that of the *Pathétique Sonata*, what Castro offered was quite enough, even if he drew the line at offering overt support to the composer's romantic ambitions here.

Historical evidence suggests that Chopin was not given to emotional histrionics in performance either. Pianists can drool over the more lyrical material of the

Sonata in B minor and get much satisfaction. Conversely, they can preserve the elegance of the line and the stability of the rhythms in the slow movement, as Castro did, and get no less out of it in terms of nocturnal atmosphere and melodic enchantment. He could have adopted a more urgent attitude in the finale but, in these interpretative circumstances, it would have been incoherent. In Schumann's *Etudes symphoniques*, however, no amount of clarity could compensate for the absence, or suppression perhaps, of instinctive sympathy with the composer's state of mind. Whatever Schumann did to revise the work — and he was never completely happy with it — the freshness of his youthful inspiration survives. Castro recognised that in a lovely encore performance of a discarded early study. But in the work itself he seemed determined to exaggerate its structural faults and ignore its lyrical personality.

Tragic, but you have to laugh

The Memory of Water
Hampstead

suffering from a severe case of teething troubles. For one thing, Stephenson has not yet learnt to control that most slippery of genres, tragi-comedy. For another, she packs far too much material, funny and serious and funny-serious, into two and a half hours.

Mum's three daughters are gathered in Mum's dismal north-country home for Mum's funeral. Stephenson fills us in on both the grimy politics of Mum's marriage and the sibling jealousies of the next generation. Adding assorted onstage and offstage males to the brew, she also elaborates on the young women's unsatisfactory personal lives.

Scatty Catherine (Matilda Ziegler) smokes pot and phones the latest of her 78 lovers, a Spanish restaurateur who does not want to know. Self-righteous, self-pitying Teresa (Jane Bookier) bosses her lugubrious Scots husband Frank and, although technically teetotal, goes on a mean drunk, vindictively informing the

mourners of her doctor-sister's teenage pregnancy. It is clearly a bad day for Mary, as her victim is called, and it soon becomes a worse one. In addition to getting awful news about the long-lost son who obsesses her, she is more or less rejected by her married lover. It would be nice to report that Stephenson and Haydn Gwynne, the strong, sensitive actress playing Mary, manage to assimilate the pain she feels into a consistent, credible plot; but they cannot and do not. At worst, *Memory of Water* flings up feelings and ideas as randomly as a baggage-vomitory at Heathrow.

Ronald Hayman examines a modern psychiatric guru's thirst for publicity

Divided in his own desires

Since Sophocles wrote about Philoctetes, the equation of genius with a stinking wound has been commonplace in discussions about artists and writers. It is, however, unusual for a wounded genius to become a psychiatrist. Both of these biographies show how much Ronald Laing suffered — while making his name, while withdrawing from the limelight and while struggling to stage a comeback. But his powers went on fading to the point at which he wrote: "I'm nothing now I've lost my funky charm."

His mad mother inflicted the first damage. He never had much physical contact with her, and when he was five, she burnt his favourite toy, a wooden horse, saying he was too attached to it. While he was in the Army she destroyed his baby grand piano and all the papers he'd kept from school and university.

Later, convinced he was wicked, she tried to give him a heart attack by sticking pins into a doll. The insecurity she had induced made it easier for him to empathise with schizoid patients. The beautiful schizophrenic he features in the last chapter of *The Divided Self* "was trying to find happiness. She felt unreal and there was an invisible barrier between herself and others. She was empty and worthless."

She was worried less she was too destructive and was beginning to think it best not to touch anything in case she caused damage. She had a great deal to say about her mother. She was smothering her, she would not let her live, and she had never wanted her."

Like an actor, a schizophrenic is subject to conflicting impulses, wanting at once to conceal and reveal himself. Other people are dangerous because their gaze may probe the core of his inner self, but the danger is preferable to isolation. In Laing, from the outset, the need to perform was inseparable from the desire to help. As a medical student in Glasgow, after observing inmates in the psychiatric unit of Duke Street Hospital, he used to imagine he was a paranoid schizophrenic, thinking his way step by step into the role.

At his best during the Sixties, he became a star performer at conferences, but though he knew there was always an element of acting in the misplaced aggression that Freud called "acting out", he couldn't always restrain his pugnacity. During a conference on "The Dialectics of Liberation" in 1967 he was trying to needle Stokely Carmichael, the black activist: "The thing is, Stokely, I like black people, but I could never stand their smell."

Of all his bestsellers, the one that sold best was *The Politics of Experience*, which came out the same year. Inevita-

bly ambivalent about family life, he said the family's function was "to repress Eros; to induce a false consciousness of security; to deny death by avoiding life ... to create, in short, one-dimensional man; to promote respect, conformity, obedience; to con children out of play; to induce a fear of failure ... to promote respect for 'respectability'."

By then he was separated from his first wife, Anne, who had borne five of his 10 children. Though this outburst had some of its roots in bitterness about his childhood and adult experiences of family life, he also felt genuinely indignant about patients who had suffered at home from "violence disguised as love", and he succeeded in providing real help — through his private practice, his public statements and his Philadelphia Association, which offered patients housing, tolerance and sympathy.

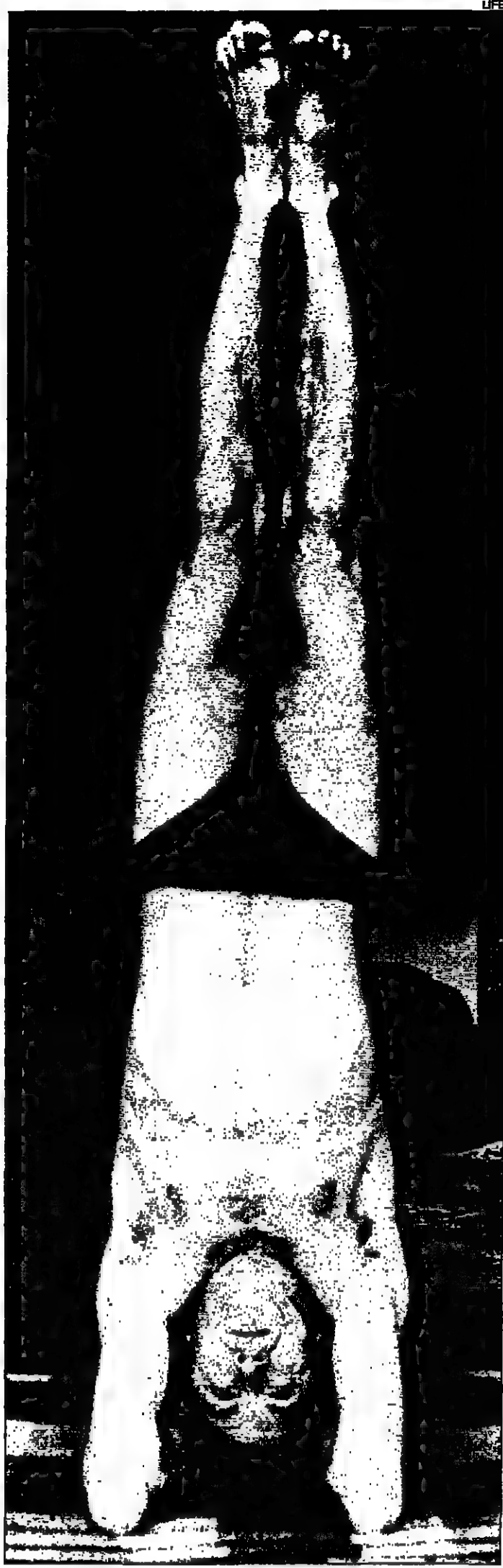
Daniel Burston suggests that in his assaults on the family another factor was his "desire to boost his popularity among segments of the left and the counterculture, who welcomed this kind of intemperate rhetoric". But after years of practising yoga and meditation, he withdrew in 1971 to spend over a year in India and Ceylon. He said he had never been "political in an activist sense ... Politically, I think I am neutral, really."

Though he intended to turn his back on "the publicity thing", he was tossed between extravagance and highly paid public appearances, while exorbitant drinking exacerbated his competitiveness and his compulsion to subvert conventions. At the age of 54, during a conference in Rome, he offered to fight all comers in an Indian wrestling match, and in 1983 he took a friend, John Heaton, with him to visit a man who could provide funds for the Philadelphia Association. Despite the presence of her boyfriend, the man's 20-year-old daughter was sitting at Laing's feet when, complaining of boredom, he challenged Heaton to a "spiritual joust", with the girl as prize. At three in the morning he claimed victory and took her to a bedroom. The embarrassed Heaton left, but afterwards maintained there was "a crazy sort of integrity" in Laing's behaviour. "He wasn't going to take the money off someone he didn't value."

By the age of 61 he had already had two heart attacks, but he defiantly played tennis on a hot August afternoon in St Tropez. He was winning four-one when he collapsed and died on the court. Of these two books John Clay's gives the fuller and more accurate account of the biographical facts, while Daniel Burston provides a more substantial critique of the work.

R. D. LAING
A Divided Self
By John Clay
Hodder & Stoughton, £20
ISBN 0 340 59049 1

THE WING OF
MADNESS
The Life and Work of
R. D. Laing
By Daniel Burston
Harvard University Press,
£21.95
ISBN 0 674 95338 4



Laing at his yoga: he never turned his back on "the publicity thing"

The golden city of blood and faith

Ian McIntyre
on conquest,
madmen and
heroes

A HISTORY OF
JERUSALEM
One City, Three Faiths
By Karen Armstrong
HarperCollins, £20
ISBN 0 00 255222 0

Karen Armstrong's lust for daunting subjects locates her squarely in what might be termed the North Face of the Eiger school of historical writing. She limbered up in the early Nineties with a history of the Crusades and a biography of the Prophet. More recently she won praise for *A History of God*; Lord Rumsfeld thought it lucid. Sister Wendy Beckett was dazzled and A. N. Wilson pronounced it "the most fascinating and learned study of the biggest wild goose chase in history".

When she was a young nun, Armstrong was enjoined to begin her morning meditation by picturing the biblical scene she was about to contemplate. This made her adept at conjuring images of the Mount of Olives, or the Via Dolorosa. Later, however, when she first saw Jerusalem, this mental guide-book offered few answers to the questions crowding in on her.

"How could a mere city, full of fallible human beings and teeming with the most unholy activities, be sacred? Why should an atheist Jew feel possessive about the Western wall? Why should an unbelieving Arab, standing in the Mosque of al-Aqsa, be reduced to tears? The formative events of both Judaism and Islam, after all, had taken place elsewhere."

The sanctity of Jerusalem, what's more, played little part in the early Zionist movement. Theodor Herzl's chief emotion when he visited the Western Wall was disgust: "the squalor, the moaning, and the craven attitudes of the Jews who clung to its stones symbolised everything that Zionism must transcend". The real Zion, Armstrong concluded, was "a far more tumultuous and confusing place" than her conventional exercises had prepared her for. The North Face response was to attempt its equally tumultuous and confusing history.

Confusing, and also barbarous. When the city fell to the Persians in AD 610, 60,000 Christians were slaughtered. Four centuries later, when the Crusaders broke through the walls, the Provencal eye-witness Raymond of Aguilers recorded his satisfaction at the piles of heads, hands and feet he saw in the streets: "It was a just and splendid judgment of God that this place should be filled with the blood of unbelievers."

Not all that many heroes march in this long cavalcade, and there are not a few madmen. In the 11th century

there was the Caliph al-Hakim, who substituted his own name for that of God in the Friday prayers. By his command Christians wore heavy crosses around their necks and Jews a large block of wood. In our day there was



Prayer at Jerusalem's Western Wall

Rabbi Meir Kahane, rather too briefly imprisoned in 1980 for plotting to destroy the Dome of the Rock with a long-range missile.

Armstrong returns insistently to the proposition that without justice and compassion, devotion to sacred space is worthless. She has no more time than anyone else for the squalid animosities of the Eastern and Western churches, and finds little edification in the Christian record of the city.

Some of the monks who settled in the Judean desert to be close to Byzantine Jerusalem were "murderously anti-Semitic". By the 15th century, Armstrong believes, much of the Western devotion to the holy city had become hysterical: she writes coldly of pil-

grims who were "mired in their own neuroses". Israelis are currently celebrating the 3000th anniversary of the city's conquest by King David. The Palestinians are restive, suspecting propaganda for a wholly Jewish Jerusalem. Armstrong thinks they may be wrong, observing that the historical record lends more support to their cause than they realise — David expropriated no sacred sites, after all, and the Jebusite administration remained in place.

She gives the Israeli higher marks than either Crusaders or Byzantines as conquerors of Jerusalem, but believes all three fall short of the Caliph Umar. In AD 638 he presided over the most peaceful conquest in the city's history — no blood-letting, no destruction of property, no forced conversions. Armstrong's judgment is that with the possible exception of David, Umar gave more complete expression to the monotheistic ideal of compassion than any previous conqueror.

It was, she reminds us, an Islamic conquest of the city that twice made it possible for Jews to return there — Umar and Saladin both invited Jews to settle in Jerusalem when they replaced Christian rulers.

Armstrong lost me only once, and that was in shepherding me round the splendid Shrine of the Book, which houses the Dead Sea Scrolls. Passing through its narrow entrance, she informs me, I am returning to the womb: the central sculpture is a phallic symbol of the national will to survive; the building itself represents the union of archaeology and nationalism "as in an ancient and rejuvenative fertility rite". And here was I assuming that the dome simply mimicked the sort of jar the scrolls were found in at Qumran. Silly old me.

Prudently, Armstrong does not lapse into punditry at the end of her bleak narrative. Kabbalistic myth, she recalls, taught that when the Jews returned to Zion, everything in the world would fall back into its proper place. The murder of Yitzhak Rabin by a fellow Jew shows that that time is not yet.

"Two peoples," she writes, "who have both endured an annihilation of sorts, now seek healing in the same Holy City." Her unhistorical conclusion is that those societies have lasted longest there that were prepared to countenance some degree of tolerance and coexistence.

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How not to do Rome

Rachel Cusk

HEADING INLAND
By Nicola Barker
Faber, £8.99
ISBN 0 571 17888 1

The secret of Nicola Barker's success is that her writing gets better and better while appearing to stay the same. *Heading Inland* is her second collection of stories; her first, the prize-winning *Love Your Enemies*, was followed by two accomplished novels, *Reversed Forecast* and *Small Holdings*, all published within a space of four years.

What has permitted her to be so prolific is that she has found early on what many writers expend a career in search of: her subject. What makes her so good is that she has the method to match it: a combination which could run, one senses, almost indefinitely on the fuel of Barker's witty, demotic and unique talent.

Her subject is London and Londoners; her method that of a diligent scavenger with a

clever eye for something funny, precious or sad among the bric-a-brac. There is a magpie quality to her writing, the half-mawkish observance of a junk collector on whose stall one might glimpse something familiar but forgotten.

The short story is a better showcase for Barker's tastes than the novel, being less imperious in its demands for

significance. Barker's characters here no more belong in a novel than they do in life. Their interest lies in their imperviousness to narrative. They're not misfits, Barker half-humorously, half-maliciously implies: they're special.

Barker is at her very best when writing sinister fairy tales, of which there are several here. Her first lines — which deserve a reputation of their own — are full of comic portentousness, heralding the ghoulish modern fable that has become her hallmark: "Martha's social worker was under the impression that by getting herself pregnant, Mar-

tha was looking for an out from a life of crime"; "Nick was born back to front, but only on the inside"; "Jennifer, 42, had a special gift which God had given her — out of the blue — to compensate for all the things that had happened to her in the past. All the awful things."

Barker revels in the resilient oddness of the English sensibility, its lack of sophistication, its unconventionality, its peculiar candor and its little-noticed sense of the surreal. When we discover, at the start of *The Piazza Barberini*, that "Tina was doing Rome on a budget", we can be sure that this sensibility will collide at full

force with its continental opposite. Indeed, several pages later Tina is performing a tracheotomy in a hotel with a biro on her English companion — who is choking on an ugly English shoe buckle — while Paolo the Italian heart-throb looks on in disgust.

Interestingly, these stories are conspicuously less convincing when they attempt to convey conventional warmth, or when Barker finds herself momentarily tempted to deal in the common currency of human relationships. Barker's compassion lies hard up against her cruelty, and when her writing becomes

recognisable it begins, oddly, to lose its edge.

The Three Button Trick and *G-String* are both concerned with the peridy of men; but where the first employs the slightly humdrum formulation of appearances being deceptive, *G-String* is Barker at her most bizarre and slantingly poignant. "Mr Kip — he liked to be called that, an affection, if you will — was an ardent admirer of the great actress Katharine Hepburn."

Gillian, Mr Kip's un-Hepburn-like girlfriend, endures all manner of torment in pursuit of a resemblance; but eventually liberates herself with the help of a G-string and a Swiss army knife. Gillian is Barker's sort of heroine: "She was knickerless. She was victorious. She was a truly modern female."

Relics of a nomad spirit

John Ryle

ANATOMY OF
RESTLESSNESS
By Bruce Chatwin
Corgi, £15.99
ISBN 0 224 04202 0

BRUCE CHATWIN was an erratic stylist, whose writing did not so much evolve as mutate, starting with the picaresque fragments and exuberant narrative bursts of his first book, *In Patagonia* — where their cumulative effect was so astonishingly sharp and fresh — passing through the baroque tableaux of the Viceroy of Ouidah, and culminating in the implausible confusion of *The Songlines*.

His books did not get better: in some respects they got worse, the modernist style battling against an archaic sensibility, with preciosity a constant danger. Nevertheless, the style has a brightness that does not fade and the subjects are rare and strange.

Anatomy of Restlessness collects a number of Chatwin's essays and articles, and some short stories, with the intention of illustrating the abiding themes in his writing. It is a wonderful title but this should not disguise the fact that the book is not in any real sense an anatomy. It is more like a heap of bones, left, as it were, by a hunting band. The title

phrase itself comes from one of Chatwin's early stabs at a theory of nomadism: a clutch of pieces on this theme form the core of the book. The nomadic bent, he remarked, is the reason why "possessions exhaust us" and a central tension in his writing lies in the contrast between his deep feeling for the lure of art and the conviction that his attachment to material objects was a kind of perversion, a disease of civilisation.

An early letter to his publisher, Tom Maschler, repro-

duced here, provides the most lucid presentation of this idea. This letter is more straightforward than the reflections on the subject in *The Songlines*: it could be useful if it were reproduced in future editions of *The Songlines* itself.

Other sections of the present book comprise four weak fictional pieces and a number of book reviews. The latter are interesting, reflecting distinct aspects of Chatwin's character. One is on a memoir by Wilfred Thesiger, a figure who represents Chatwin's more austere side. It is a successful example of a difficult genre, the entirely laudatory review. Another is a surprisingly harsh account of a life of Robert Louis Stevenson — whom Chatwin considered a second-rate writer, though one with whom he had some affinity. A third is an account



Chatwin: archaic sensibility

of an anarchist rebellion in Argentina in the 1920s. I remember this piece well since, as a new recruit to the staff of *The Times Literary Supplement*, I was assigned to edit it. Chatwin was charming itself, appreciative, uncomplicated about cuts and even additions. I later learnt that

most of the piece, though cast as a book review, consisted of material that had been cut from *In Patagonia*, published the following year. It makes one wonder what else Chatwin owed to editors: the manuscript of *In Patagonia* was famously vast and unwieldy, cut down to 97 laconic numbered sections, some only a paragraph long, by Chatwin and his editor at Cape. The invention of style is a mysterious business. Susannah Clapp, the editor in question, has written a biographical essay on Chatwin, due out later this year, which may cast some light on this question.

Anatomy of Restlessness contains an extensive bibliography, recording many more Chatwin ephemera, as well as providing a useful list of works already in print. It is not complete but on the evidence of this list there are at least enough uncollected pieces to fill another volume.

Not that they will reveal any more about Chatwin's life. He was not a confessional writer; but the present collection does reveal the way Chatwin's

characteristic stylistic devices operated in different literary contexts. "In keeping with his belief in the indivisibility of fact and fiction," the editors note apropos the TLS piece, "Chatwin resorts to the techniques of fictional narrative to relate an extravagant episode in Patagonian history." "Resorts" is not quite the right word: this kind of thing is precisely what defines Chatwin's style: the use of the story-telling techniques of one kind of writing to such startling and delightful effect in the other. The constant hybridisation provides a kind of unity in his sometimes vagarious writing, even if the results are not always equally successful.

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Peter Ackroyd admires the versatility and energy of the author of *Paradise Lost*, a London visionary and citizen of the world

Attempting all in Prose and Rime

Milton was already learned as a child: he pored over his books late into the night, in the very heart of London, inaugurating what would become a life of labour and of discipline. At Cambridge he was known as "The Lady" because of his delicate features and refined manners.

But his contemporaries missed the hardness within him. He was as ambitious as he was resolute, and had determined from an early age that he would be a great poet. He wrote Latin verses because he wished to acquire a European reputation; he wrote English poetry because he wanted to be a British Virgil.

His first years in Cambridge and in London were spent in the quiet pursuit of learning. He read history and philosophy and seems to have indulged in that antiquarian passion which is inseparable from the English genius. That is why Peter Levi properly reminds us that he wished to write an epic upon King Arthur before he ever thought of *Paradise Lost*. He managed to escape taking holy orders and, although he thought of entering an Inn of Court (the most respectable path for an educated Londoner), he still retained only one true ambition. "What am I thinking about?" he wrote to one

EDEN RENEWED
The Public and Private Life of John Milton
By Peter Levi
Macmillan, £20
ISBN 0 333 63771 2

friend, "Immortality, so help me God."

The origins of Milton's political affiliations are not easy to grasp, but Peter Levi believes that he succumbed to a fit of "creeping Puritanism" in the 1630s. He might seem an unlikely representative of that cause — steeped as he was in classical learning and classical literature, the writer of masque and the lover of music.

It may have been self-belief that turned him into a dissenter, however; he sensed that the Spirit worked within him, both as poet and theologian, and he needed no other assistance to interpret Scripture. The rest of his private creed derives from this. Yet the richness of his buried nature — one might almost say, his Catholic nature — emerges in the powerful cadences

of his prose no less than in the melodic harmonies of his poetry.

Peter Levi is a voluble and confident, even a chatty, biographer: he is not elegant, but he is enthusiastic. He has, of course, been Professor of Poetry at Oxford, and so devotes much space to a critical reading of Milton's verse. He is particularly sensitive to its music, a quality which was largely forgotten by those critics such as Eliot and Leavis who believed that *Paradise Lost* formed some great wall in English poetry through which no one could break.

It was not Milton who contorted the language into strange shapes — there is a very good case for saying that the King James Bible performed that particular feat. But Levi is also erudite enough to follow the poet's classical allusions to their source; he is one of the few modern biographers who can make his own translations from the Latin and the Greek.

There is always a place for criticism in any literary biography — not because in any vulgar sense it "reflects" the events and passions of the life but, rather, because the form and cadence of



John Milton: polemical poet

the work represent the very bearing and tenor of its creator in the world. That is wholly true of Milton himself.

In his late twenties he journeyed to Italy as "a citizen of the world", in Levi's words: he travelled as a gentleman, with one servant, and was greeted as a poet and scholar. He claimed later that he returned to England after hearing news of civil unrest, yet at first he simply

reverted to his old concern for epic and for fame. He did begin writing pamphlets against episcopacy, but his prose is always that of a poet: it is hedged with imagery, strident with metaphor, and generally controlled by a powerful cadence.

Milton also had a wonderful talent for abuse and, in his tirades against his opponents, can join the ranks of those other London visionaries, William Blake and Thomas More, who also combined a strong religious consciousness with the language of a Billingsgate fishwife. Levi suggests that he wasted his time writing religious tracts, but it would not have seemed so to Milton at the time. Religious controversy was taken very seriously indeed, and books of that nature sold far better than anything of a secular cast.

Yet it is difficult to understand why Milton postponed his career as a poet and took up polemical prose: it may simply be that he wanted to acquire influence and recognition before it was too late. Certainly he was rewarded for his efforts by becoming Secretary for Foreign Tongues to Cromwell and his Council, although Levi goes too

far when he describes Milton's position as "something lower than a hack". He believed that the republican cause represented "piety to my country", and it is quite likely that his antiquarian passion helped to elevate his role as propagandist for the republican cause. Antiquarians were once, characteristically, radicals.

On the return of Charles II Milton's books were burned by the public hangman but he, miraculously, escaped death. No one is quite sure how he avoided the penalty which was inflicted upon many less culpable than himself — he had, after all, been an enthusiastic apologist for the regicides and had mocked the dead king — but Levi suggests that it might have been at the behest of the newly restored monarch. But even though he escaped death, he could not avoid suffering. He had already gone blind, and his condition was generally interpreted as God's salutary lesson. He was cordially detested by his daughters, who considered him to be a tyrant and possibly also a bore.

So he retired to a quiet part of the city with his third wife, among sympathetic dissenters, and undertook the real work of his life. Levi has a good image of Milton "entering a state of trance" before writing *Paradise Lost*. This biography also gives a fitting description of the poem itself as the work of a blind man, employing "the original oral technique of epic poetry" and thus rediscovering "some of the freshness of ancient epic". Yet how much it also resembles the poet's permanent nature in its wilfulness, its energy, its persistence through difficulties and its elaborately controlled interior music.

At the end of his life he was visited by the learned, and scorned by the partisan as a "dead dog" and a "canker worm". He himself told his wife that "my aim is to live and die an honest man". It is likely that he succeeded in that ambition, although the years of pamphletting between the composition of poetry have often been considered ill-judged and self-defeating. Samuel Johnson once wrote of Milton's last great work, *Samson Agonistes*, that "the intermediate parts have neither cause nor consequence". Perhaps the same might be said of Milton's own variegated, unhappy, but ultimately triumphant, career.

Land of forests and dreams

Matthew Parris on the gripping tale of a journey into the jungle

Books about other people and places proliferate and there has never been a time when so much was written about abroad. It is odd, therefore, to reflect that the explorer's tale is dying. We jet hither and thither, returning with verbal snapshots; we invent silly "themes" to justify new books — bicycling or hang-gliding across continents; or, behind the façade of a journey into a continent, presenting journeys into our own personalities. Travel writers are becoming celebrities in their own right, the name of the author, the journey as an event, becoming the principal draw. Where the author went and what he saw are relegated almost to the status of the incidental.

But where are the Captain Cooks, the Wilfred Thesigers — where the *Seven Years in Tibet* — of our age? Where are the studies whose author has not dipped a toe but sublimely merged himself in Otherness: the stories we read not out of curiosity about the writer, but forgetting the writer, burning to know what he has found?

Philippe Descola has made such a journey and written such a book. One makes the judgment at one's peril, but I think *The Spears of Twilight* may come to be read as one of the great anthropological adventures of modern literature. In a beautiful translation from the French by Janet Lloyd — a translation which retains just a hint of stiltedness, a hint of that classical formality which is really a feature of French thought and so should not be excised from the language — the young M Descola recounts his two years, with his wife,

THE SPEARS OF TWILIGHT
By Philippe Descola
HarperCollins, £20
ISBN 0 00 25609 X

among an Amazonian tribe, the Achuar, so cut off from the world that even their relative neighbours could not easily direct the young couple to where they lived.

As one who has made much of his thrills and spills in the Andes, I am ashamed by Philippe Descola, who makes nothing of his personal tribulations, which must have been immense: nothing of the discomfort, the flies, the mosquitoes, the illness, the dislocation of his own life. His whole attention, his book's whole focus, is held steady and unremitting on the lives of the Indians among whom he lives, to whose hearts, very tentatively, he is taken, and of whose life and thought he experiences a dawning understanding. He and Anne Christine move in and stay as strange and honorary relatives, living (so far as a white couple can) the same lives as their hosts.

As the story proceeds we get to know each member of the Indian families they live with, not as anthropologists' case studies, but as friends. At times the narrative takes on the tone of an exotic soap opera, as jealousies, killings, passion, friendship, accidents and illnesses visit the story. We learn how to hunt, how to eat, how to sing and make poetry, how, where and when to make love.

And, all the time and with-



Sesame couple: Descola has an intuitive understanding of the Achuar tribes of Ecuador

out apology, Descola is interpreting as best he can the whys and wherefores, the emotional, religious and conceptual skeleton on which the flesh of this culture is hung. How can one ever know another culture? One can honestly try, that is all. I can only say that I find Descola more intuitively persuasive than any anthropologist I have previously heard.

It would be impossible to summarise this enormous, gripping book. To offer flavour, I quote the author describing the importance, to

the Achuar, of dreams, whose memory and meaning, as glimpses of a parallel world they hold with them through their waking hours. Dreams may live for them, he suggests, partly from a broken sleep that is divided into a series of short snatches interrupted by a wailing child, a suspicious noise, the barking of a dog or an insistent sensation of discomfort when the dying fire no longer palliates the night chill. Upon surfacing from each of these little excursions of the soul, its dreams are briefly recalled, perhaps even com-

municated in a whisper within the closed bed, so that the final morning awakening provides a rich collection of images to be interpreted.

Unless you had lived and slept with the tribe for many months, you would lack the data upon which to found that speculation. Unless you were a person of quite extraordinary thoughtfulness and perceptiveness, you would lack the means with which to build it. Philippe Descola has woven a tale as elusive, as spiritual, as it is authoritative; as magical as it is scientific.

The storyteller's hard-won victory

Julia Neuberger

THE WAR AFTER
Living with the Holocaust
By Anne Karpf
Heinemann, £18.99
ISBN 0 434 00239 9

Anne Karpf and I were London schoolgirls together in the so-called "swinging Sixties". Neither of us was much affected by the dramatic social changes taking place around us, though both envied those girls with long, straight hair. (One of the funniest asides in Anne Karpf's book is her snipe at Vidal Sassoon's love of cutting straight hair — and "he a nice Jewish boy.") Both of us — probably without realising it — were more affected by the experiences our parents had had before and during the war.

Her parents were survivors. Her mother had been in Auschwitz. Her father had a strange series of war-time experiences in appalling Russian labour camps, ending up as a Polish councillor, despite Polish anti-Semitism.

My mother was a German refugee, and my childhood was equally coloured by the Holocaust — by the recognition of German refugees speaking German in the cafes in the Finchley Road, where Anne heard Polish. For Anne was not alone. In our year at school, some ten or more had at least one refugee parent. But few had parents who had been in the camps.

I do not remember the isolation, nor the pain, that Anne felt about speaking about being Jewish. She writes with pride about her daughter gaily discussing being Jewish in a way she had not. But some of us discussed our Jewishness, and rebelled against some of its restrictions. Anne Karpf's experience was different from many of ours, perhaps in part because her parents came after the war, and found a less than welcoming reception from Jews and non-Jews alike. Britain behaved with far less generosity to Jews wishing to come here after the war than they had before the war, when the record, though not wonderful, was better than that of most other countries.

After was different. Not only is this Anne Karpf's account of her personal war after the war, but it is also a reflection on general experience. Displaced people, new arrivals, with terrible stories no one wanted to hear, were dumped into a world where everything was grim. They had not been part of "the war effort". Not in

the Pioneer Corps, as many refugees were. Not fire-watching, as so many did. When they came, they were foreign; no one wanted to know. That included much of the Jewish community who had done a bit before the war, but whose postwar reaction was horror at the events, but apathy about the survivors.

That isolation and pain had its effects on her children. Anne Karpf's war was with her parents, breaking away. Her writing is so vivid about her skin condition, as she scratched herself raw in pain and despair, one is tempted to start scratching oneself. It was

therapy that brought her a form of resolution, and recording her parents' stories that brought her calm and them immortality. For those who lived with their experiences, as children, even grandchildren, now recognise the effect on themselves.

Anne Karpf's book records pain, triumph, and, most movingly, her father's death. There is even some humour. But this reader would have liked some detail, beyond Karpf's interviews, about what happened to her parents. This volume should be for our children, but they do the Holocaust in GCSE history. For them, everything needs spelling out.

The emotion is given full rein here, but we need more fleshing out of Josef's and Natalia's experiences. Meanwhile, one cannot fail to be moved and saddened by this country's failure to offer a hand of friendship to so many, after the war. Not to mention their children.



Isolation: Anne Karpf as a girl, drawn by her father

There is so much plot in *The Hanging Tree*. It reads like several books welded together. Palaeontologist Kathryn Widd validates her belief that violence has an *a priori* claim on man when she finds the oldest known hominid in an excavation. She is digging in the Kenyan wilderness with museum colleagues, Chinta and Victor, his wife and Widd's lover Marion, and Tregallion — a desert mystic and Widd's other lover.

Widd pieces together the fossilised remains of a murder victim and a weapon into an all-too-familiar pattern of domestic violence which weaves into the subplot of Lt-Col Patterson's 1908 hunting safari to Kenya. The safari ended tragically with the suicide of his companion, Captain Blyth. Or was it murder? This is the other mystery Kathryn Widd wishes to solve, as the sexual betrayal, witchcraft and death in that plot forest? How her own fate and that of her lovers and colleagues.

Archaeology, cosmology, big game hunting, Bach cello concertos, gay and straight sex, war ... it's all here, but in a language that is over-rational, quasi-scientific, borrowed. Elsewhere in the sex and hunting scenes, Rousseau, Law-

Mystery mired in machismo

Russell Celyn Jones

THE HANGING TREE
By David Lambkin
Viking, £16
ISBN 0 670 86098

rence and Hemingway clichés abound.

Lambkin is a Renaissance fraud and his narrative collapses under the weight of its many pretensions. Widd dreams in book form and thinks like a stoned Buddhist. "Addicted to her calm acceptance of homoerotic lust, I felt no instant's qualm, no tremor of fear at our presumption."

Then there is the problem of Kathryn Widd's first-person narrative voice — her gun-toting machismo, cavalier treatment of lovers, her opportunism. At one point Widd says: "Men often find my



Lambkin: overly ambitious

intellect too challenging, but there are those who are attracted to the toughness, the lack of sentimentality in my cast of mind." Wishful thinking. For most of the time she

communicates like a recent transsexual who hasn't quite relaxed into her new body. By slapping on the paraphernalia of womanhood — with references to her "petal" of menstrual blood, panties, tampons, lipstick, little black dresses — Lambkin merely fuels what reads like a gender identity crisis. How Mrs Blyth is described in the Patterson episodes better serves to encapsulate Widd: "a letterbox created by men for men".

At the beginning of the novel Kathryn muses: "What if there is a contrapuntal connecting principle at work in the universe that is beyond causality, beyond chance, beyond aleatory happening?" Quite. And that basically is what Lambkin thinks he's written a novel about. But the universality he aims for boils down to mere solipsism. Near the end, Kathryn describes the kind of book she'd like to write, and in that description is captured the failure of Lambkin's ambition — in the style of language that lampoons it. "I'd like to write a book in counterpoint; a fugue using cantrips and inverted themes and augmented themes and diminished themes and mirror-fugues; all the contrapuntal techniques in one book."

Obeying liberty's laws

Peter Stothard

AN APARTMENT CALLED FREEDOM
By Ghazi A. Algosaihi
Kegan Paul International, £15.95
ISBN 0 7103 0058

THE party girls are known as Zezi, Shoshoo, Reeri and Deede. The young Arab boys who have hired them for the night know them "only by their working names, or, as might have been said in the Barath Party, their names in the movement". This is a provocative novel of youthful awakening — intellectual, sexual but most of all political. At its heart are the peculiarities of pan-Arab relationships in which the author has spent his working life.

The apartment of the title is the home for five young men who have arrived in Cairo during the aftermath of the Suez crisis. The problems of flat-sharing are the same the world over; but here they also shed a baleful light on President Nasser's revolutionary ambitions to unite the Arab world.

The central character, Fuad Tarrif, is a 16-year-old from traditional Bahrain. Egypt may claim to be "the mother of the universe" but to Fuad it is "the land of strangers". What is the difference between bakshesh and a bribe? He hopes

that his law school, once he has found it, will help him to find an answer.

Even more than an answer he wants a girl, ideally not one of his fellow law students, who look like criminal court judges of the future. First he finds four male friends, whose radicalism and reason, capitalism and spirituality, match neatly the Fifties fashions. Then come the call-girls at between £2 and £5 a time, the venereal diseases and other rashes of youth.

The plotting is neat, probably too neat for some. The boys see their apartment freedom as "an integral part of the Arab nation" with a 70-clause constitution to support its aims of equality, justice and democ-

racy. The clauses cover everything from budgets to bathroom-time: those who want to study Freud before sexual activity should have the freedom to do so; so should those who simply want to pay their £2.

Hovering always over the action is Nasser himself. Fuad becomes a fervent admirer despite reports of torture and repression. The President's vain attempt at a pan-Arab state inspires an argument in which oil-rich Saudi Arabia is suggested as a better partner for Egypt than a host of "hungry Syrians". The author, a student in Cairo himself in the Fifties and now the Saudi Arabian Ambassador in London, must have been confident that none back home would take offence.

His literary boldness, while not perhaps in the same league as such author-diplomats as Sir Henry Wotton or Boccaccio, stands far above the current court of St James — and indeed any other writer-politician whom modern Britain could pit against him.

Court of Appeal

Law Report July 18 1996

Court of Appeal

Limitation actions final not interlocutory

Hughes v Jones
Before Lord Justice Beldam and Lord Justice Henry
[Judgment July 12]

An application to disapply the relevant limitation period was a final application as opposed to an interlocutory one and a large number of district judges throughout the country were in error in routinely hearing such applications on the basis that they were interlocutory, and might, on occasion, be acting without jurisdiction.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Mrs Patricia Hughes from an order of Judge Crowe, QC, in Liverpool County Court, on May 24, 1995, that her appeal, on a preliminary point, from the order of Deputy Judge Munro, on April 26, 1995, was an appeal from a final order and not an interlocutory order, and should be determined on the merits, instead of a rehearing, or an appeal de novo, but allowing her appeal from Judge Crowe's refusal to disapply the limitation period.

Order 59, rule 1A of the Rules of the Supreme Court provides: "(1) For all purposes connected with appeals to the Court of Appeal, a judgment or order shall be treated as final or interlocutory in accordance with the following provisions of this rule..."

"(3) A judgment or order shall be treated as final if the entire cause or matter would (subject only to any possible appeal) have been finally determined whichever way the court below had decided the issues before it."

"(4) For the purposes of paragraph (3), where the final hearing or the trial of a cause or matter is divided into parts, a judgment or order made at the end of any part shall be treated as if made at the end of the complete hearing or trial..."

"(6) Notwithstanding anything in paragraph (3), but without prejudice to paragraph (5), the

following judgments and orders shall be treated as interlocutory:— (a) an order directing or otherwise determining an issue as to limitation of actions other than as part of a final judgment or order within the meaning of paragraph (3)."

Mr Graham N. Wood for Mrs Hughes; Mr Malcolm Sharpe for the defendant, Mr Mark Jones.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that the appeal raised the question as to whether an application to disapply the limitation period under section 33 of the Limitation Act 1980 was an interlocutory or final application. The answer had knock-on effects as to whether district judges had jurisdiction to hear that issue, the basic requirements of any such hearing and the nature of the appeal from it.

The law on the point was to be found in *White v Brunton* [1984] 1 QB 570, the incorporation of that decision in the Rules of the Supreme Court (Order 59, rule 1A(4)) and *Dale v British Coal Corporation* [1992] 1 WLR 964. Examination of that line of binding authority disclosed unfortunate divergence between the law as there to be found, and the practice of county courts up and down the country.

Mrs Hughes had sustained a whiplash injury in an accident on October 22, 1991, following delivery correspondence between the parties, the date of the primary limitation period of three years passed without her solicitors noticing. Proceedings were then brought by her on behalf of a summons dated February 8, 1995, the claim expressed to be worth over £5,000.

Section 33 of the Limitation Act 1980 empowered a judge to disapply the limitation period if it appeared to the court that it would be equitable to allow the action to proceed.

In *Firman v Ellis* [1978] QB 889, the Court of Appeal, in respect of a similar provision in the Limitation Act 1975, expressed the opinion

that "strong" discretion should only be exercised by a High Court or county court judge. An amendment to the Rules of the Supreme Court in 1981 (Order 32, rule 9A) had the effect of empowering masters in the Queen's Bench Division to exercise that jurisdiction.

There was no equivalent rule in the county court. His Lordship did not take the existence of the High Court rule as investing the district judge in the county court with a jurisdiction he would not otherwise have.

However, the court had been told that district judges in the Liverpool County Court frequently entertained such applications.

The court had caused a series of questions to be sent to district judges nationwide through the FELIX network under the auspices of the Judicial Studies Board. That showed the Liverpool practice to be typical.

District judges routinely heard such applications and generally regarded them as interlocutory, and the appeals from them as interlocutory rather than final. Their jurisdiction was generally assumed to be founded on the interlocutory nature of the order and so given by Order 13, rule 1(6) of the County Court Rules.

That general practice was followed here. It was clear from the plaintiff's notice of appeal that it was thought that this was an interlocutory appeal.

Judge Crowe initially thought so too. He said in his judgment: "It is... right to say that, for a good many years, in my limited personal experience, all applications relating to the Limitation Act have been treated as interlocutory applications."

The response to the questions put out on FELIX confirms that impression. But the legal answer lay in Order 59, rule 1A(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court. That rule set out to define once and for all which orders were final and which interlocutory orders.

Reading the passages in that Order from paragraph (3) and paragraph (6) in isolation, it would seem that a section 33 application would be interlocutory. But that would be to ignore *White v Brunton* and its recognition in Order 59, rule 1A(4).

It was that paragraph which persuaded the court in *Dale v British Coal Corporation* that the judge's order disapplying section 33 of the Limitation Act 1980 was final.

Accordingly the district judge's decision was therefore a final decision and the plaintiff's preliminary appeal failed.

The county court judge went on to consider, and the plaintiff's appeal against the refusal to apply the limitation period. The logic of *White v Brunton* was that the order should properly be regarded as a final determination of the case.

Yet, absent leave of the judge and the consent of the parties, the district judge would not have jurisdiction finally to determine the claim, as its value exceeded £5,000, see Order 2, rule 5 of the County Court Rules.

Further it seemed clear that he did not regard himself as making a final order. Had he so regarded himself, and had he considered that the appeal against him would be a final appeal, he would have given a reasoned judgment, and not the bare note that he sent to the trial judge.

The judge making such a final order must, having regard to the significance that is attached to his exercise of discretion, set out clearly the reasons why he has exercised the discretion, both dealing with the matters that he has taken into account, and those he was statutorily required to take into account.

The bare note of his reasons did not seem to satisfy that requirement. It followed that the plaintiff did not have a proper final hearing. Further, it did not seem

that either the judge gave leave or the plaintiff truly consented to the district judge carrying out a final hearing under Order 21, rule 5, because her advisers believed that it was an interlocutory hearing, with the broader appeal that flowed from that.

The belief common to both parties that this was an interlocutory hearing might too have affected the evidence that was called before the district judge. It did not seem that he had jurisdiction. Counsel could not refer to the court as any source of jurisdiction other than Order 21, rule 5.

The court was conscious that its decision would cause practical difficulties for similar applications already in the pipeline and made the following suggestions:

Where the district judge had already heard and determined the matter and there had been no appeal against his decision, the court would readily infer the parties' consent to his acting in a final capacity.

Where the appeal from him to the county court judge was outstanding, the appeal should be treated as a hearing de novo unless the court was satisfied that he had jurisdiction to conduct the hearing as a final hearing, in which case Order 37, rule 6 procedure would apply.

Where the appeal from the district judge to the county court judge had been heard and determined, the point should be academic on any appeal to the Court of Appeal. If it was determined on the basis that it was an interlocutory appeal, then the county court judge would have heard it de novo in any event (see above). And if it was determined as a final appeal, then the right procedure was used, and the question did not arise.

Lord Justice Beldam agreed that the appeal succeeded and that the case should be remitted to the county court judge for directions.

Solicitors: E. Edwards Son & Niece, 10 Bedford Square, London, W1P 6JL; Silverbeek Rymer, Liverpool.

Cutting lost years award for living expenses

Phipps v Brooks Dry Cleaning Services Ltd
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas
[Judgment July 11]

An award of damages for loss of earnings in the lost years, under the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1934, was subject to a deduction in respect of the joint living expenses of the injured person and his dependants.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing in part an appeal by the plaintiff, Royston Howard Phipps, of Church Road, Soundwell, Bristol, against an award of damages made by Mr Justice Dyson against the defendants, Brooks Dry Cleaning Services Ltd.

Mr Kieran L. May for the plaintiff; Mr Allan Gore for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the appeal raised two points of general importance in relation to the calculation of damages in the lost years, namely, where a defendant reduced the expectation of life of the primary victim by the tort.

In *Pickett v Brel* [1980] AC 130 the House of Lords had held that the primary victim as plaintiff, if he was alive, or his estate, if he was dead, could maintain an action for loss of the earnings which he would have received during the rest of his expected working life, subject to a reduction for his living expenses.

They left open the question as to how those living expenses were to be calculated in relation to the shared or common expenses incurred on behalf of the primary victim and his dependants living with him at the material time.

The question was considered by the Court of Appeal in *Harris v Empress Motors Ltd* [1984] 1 WLR 221, where it was held that the common expenses should be divided equally between those involved. Thus, if the primary victim lived with his wife or partner alone, they should be divided in

half; if there were children as well, the division should be pro rata. If that was the ratio decidendi of that case, as Mr Justice Dyson held, then it was binding on the Court of Appeal.

However, Mr Anthony Temple, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, in *Soteman v Moore* [1995] 1 All ER 1000, noted in *Kemp and Kemp, The Quantum of Damages* (volume 1, p. 6032), distinguished *Harris's* case and held that the primary victim's living expenses should be treated in the same way as was done where the claim was by the dependants under the Fatal Accidents Act, where shared or common expenses were regarded as part of the dependency.

The second point in the case related to the DIY activity which the primary victim had been in the habit of carrying out. Could he recover the value of his DIY services during the lost years? Mr Justice Dyson held that he could not, but Mr Temple in *Soteman's* case held that he could.

Turning to the facts of the present case, his Lordship said that between 1960 and 1962 and between 1966 and 1969 the plaintiff was employed as a garment presser by the defendants at their dry cleaning factory premises at Ashley Vale, Bristol.

Unfortunately, that employment brought him into contact with asbestos dust from which he contracted mesothelioma. That was diagnosed in October 1994.

The disease radically reduced the plaintiff's expectation of life. It was common ground at the trial, which was concluded on November 9, 1995, that the plaintiff was expected to die in March 1996, although he was still alive.

He was 51 at the date of trial and married. The judge found that the plaintiff's net earnings would have been £12,741.60 a year. The plaintiff would have retired at the age of 60.

The judge held that the proper approach was to divide the common expenses equally between the plaintiff and his wife and con-

cluded that 50 per cent of the net earnings would be attributable to the plaintiff's living expenses in the lost years while he could be expected to work. That gave a multiplicand of £7,370.80. He took a multiplier of 7.

Mr May contended that the plaintiff's living expenses should have been assessed at no more than one third, which would be the appropriate proportion if the action had been brought under the Fatal Accidents Act on behalf of Mrs Phipps. He submitted that the approach should be identical to that adopted in assessing dependency under those Acts.

His reasoning seemed to have commended itself to Mr Temple in *Soteman's* case, but his Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Dyson that that reasoning was unsound. *Harris's* case could not be distinguished and was binding on the Court of Appeal.

Mr Phipps used to do DIY work about the house and was a keen gardener. Mr Justice Dyson rejected Mr May's submission that the plaintiff was entitled to recover the value of those activities in the lost years. Mr May relied on the reasoning of Mr Temple in *Soteman's* case.

His Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Dyson that in so far as anything could be recovered in respect of inability to do DIY in the future during the lost years, that was a loss of amenity and fell to be taken into account in general damages to a modest extent and not on a multiplier/multiplicand basis.

As to the plaintiff's pension loss, the judge, having made an error in discounting for the accelerated receipt, made an award of £13,036.76. The appropriate figure was £19,730.55.

Accordingly, his Lordship would allow the appeal in part and increase the damages awarded by £6,693.79.

Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed.

Solicitors: Sharples & Co, Bristol; Sansbury Hill, Bristol.

Court business not to be disrupted by breaches of rules

Beachley Property Ltd v Edgar
Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Morritt
[Judgment June 21]

The proper and regular administration of the court's business was not to be disrupted as a result of breaches of rules of court which occurred without justification.

Where, therefore, a party failed to comply with directions for the service of witness statements under Order 20, rule 12A of the County Court Rules 1981, as introduced by the County Court

(Amendment No 2) Rules (SI 1992 No 1963), and sought leave immediately before the trial date to adduce further material evidence in the absence of circumstances justifying the breach, the court would not exercise its discretion in his favour and he would therefore be debarred from using that evidence.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Beachley Property Ltd, from Judge Wilson, sitting at the Northampton County Court, who had allowed in part an appeal from the district judge in respect of the

plaintiff's application, made on June 11, 1996, for leave to adduce evidence from three specified further witnesses at the trial of its action, fixed for June 24, against the defendant, Alexander Edgar.

In an action, to which the automatic directions under Order 17, rule 11 applied, the parties had failed to exchange witness statements within the specified time limit or in compliance with a direction given by the court. Exchange took place on January 18, 1996 by which time the defendant had amended his defence.

On June 3, 5 and 11 the plaintiff served statements of three further witnesses whose evidence was material to the amendment and related to a major issue in the action.

The district judge granted leave in respect of one witness. On appeal the judge refused leave in respect of that witness but gave leave in respect of one of the others.

Miss Zia Bhailoo for the plaintiff; Miss Cathryn McGahey for the defendant.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the explanation for the witness statements being served so late and the application being made at relatively the last moment was apparently that there had been a change in the plaintiff's solicitors' office so that the same person was not dealing with the case throughout.

His Lordship regarded that as no explanation or excuse whatsoever for the non-compliance with directions with regard to witness statements. The evidence sought to be adduced went to a most important issue. There could be no possible excuse for the plaintiff not adducing that evidence at an earlier stage.

Miss Bhailoo had submitted that there was no evidence that the defendant had been prejudiced in any way by the plaintiff's failure and that, unless there were some evidence of prejudice, in the present circumstances the court had no alternative but to allow the evidence to be called.

His Lordship emphatically rejected that submission. The very reason Order 20, rule 12A was drafted as it was, was to make it clear that unless there were some evidence of prejudice, the court exercising its discretion in favour of the party in default, that

discretion would not be exercised and the party would be deprived of the evidence.

It was no use the party merely coming forward and saying that the evidence would help its case. If there was provision for a party to do that the rule might as well not exist.

One had to consider the position not only from the plaintiff's point of view, but from the defendant's and also from the point of view of doing justice between the litigants as well.

The present history illustrated the inconvenience and disruption to the administration of justice generally that that approach to the rules created.

Here, the judge had to deal with the appeal at short notice because of the delay on the plaintiff's part. The Court of Appeal had to arrange an extra hearing to suit the plaintiff's convenience to reconsider the appeal.

His Lordship was not in the least concerned with the court's convenience, but he was concerned that the proper and regular administration of business in general before the courts should not be disrupted as a result of breaches of the rules of the court which occurred without any justification whatsoever.

It was very important that the court's resources should be used as efficiently and effectively as possible.

That was not possible unless the parties cooperated; their cooperation involved them obeying the rules of the court. Here they did not do so and there was no explanation for it.

Lord Justice Morritt agreed.

Solicitors: Howes Perchival, Northampton; Dennis Faulkner & Akyn, Northampton.

VAT paid under unfavourable formula not recoverable

Victoria and Albert Museum v Commissioners of Customs and Excise

A taxable person could not recover additional input tax from Customs and Excise on the basis that value-added tax returns had been made incorrectly where those returns had been made under a formula subsequently discovered not to have been in the best interests of the taxpayer.

Mr Justice Turner so held in the Queen's Bench Division on June 14 when dismissing an appeal of the Board of Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum from the

decision on August 8, 1995 of the VAT tribunal that that use of the formula was not mandatory and was subject only to the condition that it produced a fair and reasonable result and had been agreed.

That the formula might have produced a result which was not fair and reasonable for the appellant's basis of operation did not make the formula impermissible.

No intrinsic error of fact or law had been made, simply an incorrect assessment of what would have been most advantageous to the appellant.

tax it had paid under the formula.

HIS LORDSHIP said that use of the formula was not mandatory and was subject only to the condition that it produced a fair and reasonable result and had been agreed.

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International Law Report

Use of nuclear weapons to be compatible with treaties

Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons (Request for advisory opinion by the General Assembly of the United Nations)

Before Judge Bedjaoui, President, Judge Schwebel, Vice-President and Judges Oda, Guillaume, Shahabuddeen, Weeramantry, Ranjeva, Herzczech, Shi, Fleischhauer, Koroma, Vereshchetin, Ferrari Bravo and Higgins
[Judgment July 9]

There was in neither customary nor conventional international law any specific authorisation of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

A threat or use of force by means of nuclear weapons was contrary to article 2, paragraph 4 of the United Nations Charter and that failed to meet the requirements of article 51 was unlawful.

A threat or use of nuclear weapons should be compatible with the requirements of the international law applicable in armed conflict particularly those of the principles and rules of international humanitarian law, as well as with specific obligations under treaties and other undertakings which expressly dealt with nuclear weapons.

There was an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring

negotiations to a conclusion which led to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

The International Court of Justice held unanimously in giving judgment on a request for an advisory opinion sought by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The ICJ held, by a majority of 11 to three (Judges Shahabuddeen, Weeramantry and Koroma dissenting), that there was in neither customary nor conventional international law any comprehensive and universal prohibition of the threat or use of nuclear weapons as such; and by

seven votes to seven with the President casting vote (Judge Schwebel, Vice-President, Judges Oda, Guillaume, Shahabuddeen, Weeramantry, Koroma and Higgins) against that although the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law; in view of the current state of international law, the Court could not conclude definitively whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self-defence, in which the very survival of a state would be at stake.

In its judgment, the ICJ said that in its history there had been no refusal, based on the discretionary power of the Court, to act upon a request for advisory opinion. In the case concerning the question posed by the World Health Organisation to the Court, the ICJ had declined to deal with the advisory question posed (*The Times* July 18). In the present case the Court had authority to deliver an opinion.

The most directly relevant applicable law was that which related to the use of force enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the legal principles in armed conflict which regulated the conduct of hostilities, together with any specific treaties on nuclear weapons that the Court might determine to be relevant.

Article 2, paragraph 4 of the Charter prohibited the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of another state. However, article 51 recognised the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurred.

In order to lessen or eliminate the risk of unlawful attack, states sometimes signalled that they possessed certain weapons to use in

self-defence against any state violating their territorial integrity or political independence.

The notions of "threat" and "use" of force under article 2, paragraph 4 of the Charter stood together in the sense that if the use of force itself in a given case was illegal, the threat to use such force would likewise be illegal. If it was to be lawful, the declared intention of a state to use force must be a use of force that was in conformity with the Charter.

The use of nuclear weapons could not be regarded as specifically prohibited. The parties until now had been for weapons of mass destruction to be declared illegal by specific instruments but there was not any specific prohibition of recourse to nuclear weapons in treaties.

Nuclear weapons were invented after most of the principles and rules of humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict had already come into existence.

However, it could not be concluded that the established principles and rules of humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict did not apply to nuclear weapons. Such a conclusion would be incompatible with the intrinsic humanitarian character of the legal principles in question which permeated the entire law of armed conflict and applied in all forms of warfare and to all kinds of weapons.

The Court appreciated the full importance of the recognition by article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of an obligation to negotiate in good faith a nuclear disarmament.

There was a twofold obligation to pursue and to conclude negotiations by the 182 States which were parties to that treaty.

Indeed, any realistic search for general and complete disarmament necessitated the cooperation of all states.

Advisory opinions must relate to duties of requesting body

Legality of the Use by a State of Nuclear Weapons in Armed Conflict (Request for Advisory Opinion by the World Health Organisation)

Before Judge Bedjaoui, President, Judge Schwebel, Vice-President and Judges Oda, Guillaume, Shahabuddeen, Weeramantry, Ranjeva, Herzczech, Shi, Fleischhauer, Koroma, Vereshchetin, Ferrari Bravo and Higgins
[Judgment July 9]

An advisory opinion sought from the International Court of Justice had to relate to the scope of the activities of the requesting agency.

Accordingly, the ICJ could not answer a question raised by the World Health Organisation on the legality of the use of nuclear weapons in armed conflict since the WHO was only authorised to deal with the effects on health of

the use of nuclear weapons and not the legality of the use of such weapons.

The ICJ, by a majority of 11 to three (Judges Shahabuddeen, Weeramantry and Koroma dissenting), found that it was not able to give the advisory opinion requested by the WHO on the question of the legality of the use by a state of nuclear weapons in armed conflict.

The Court said that three conditions had to be satisfied for it to have jurisdiction to give an advisory opinion: the agency requesting the opinion had to be duly authorised under the Charter to request the opinion; the opinion had to be on a legal question; and the question had to be one which arose within the scope of the activities of the requesting agency.

The first two conditions had been met. With regard to the third, however, the Court found that

although according to its constitution the WHO was authorised to deal with the effects on health of the use of nuclear weapons, or of any other hazardous activity, and to take preventive measures aimed at protecting the health of populations, the effects on health of the use of nuclear weapons, or of any other hazardous activity, engaged in, the question put to the Court related not to the effects of the use of nuclear weapons on health, but to the legality of the use of such weapons in view of their health and environmental effects.

The competence of the WHO to deal with those effects was not dependent on the legality of the acts that caused them. Unlike states, international organisations did not possess a general competence, but were governed by the "principle of speciality": they were created for specific purposes, the limits of which were a function of the common interests which those states entrusted to them.

the use of nuclear weapons and not the legality of the use of such weapons.

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Durham
provide
in midst

CRICKET

Durham and Hick provide dramas in midst of crises

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

IN THE spa towns of Cheltenham and Harrogate this week, the July festivals will produce yet another new leader of the county championship, but it is a fixture focusing squarely on the other end of the table that provides the human dramas. Can Durham win a game before the season ends? Can Graeme Hick play the innings he must, if the annual baying for his blood is not to become deafening once more?

Durham's record this season is so grim that one wants to avert the eyes. In the four significant competitions, they have managed to beat only Minor Counties and Scotland. They have lost ten out of 11 matches in the Sunday League — the other was washed out — and are also bottom of the county championship, despite having played two games more than most of the teams above them. They are worse than when they came into first-class cricket four years ago, which is saying something.

Barting has been their main downfall. The heroic Simon Brown leads a serviceable attack that has garnered a highly-respectable 36 bonus points in ten games, but the batsmen have managed only 16 and opponents queue up to bowl at them. Sherwin Campbell, the West Indies opener, must wonder what he has stumbled into. He may be consoled by news that his home administration plans to extend the Caribbean season and put its Test players under contract, effectively ending three decades of seasonal commuting across the Atlantic.

The stoics at Durham say

what they must — that one win is all they need for the spirit to lift and the form to improve — but where is that win to come from? If anywhere, maybe from New Road, where Worcestershire are also agonising on a lost season and where Hick is performing like a lost soul.

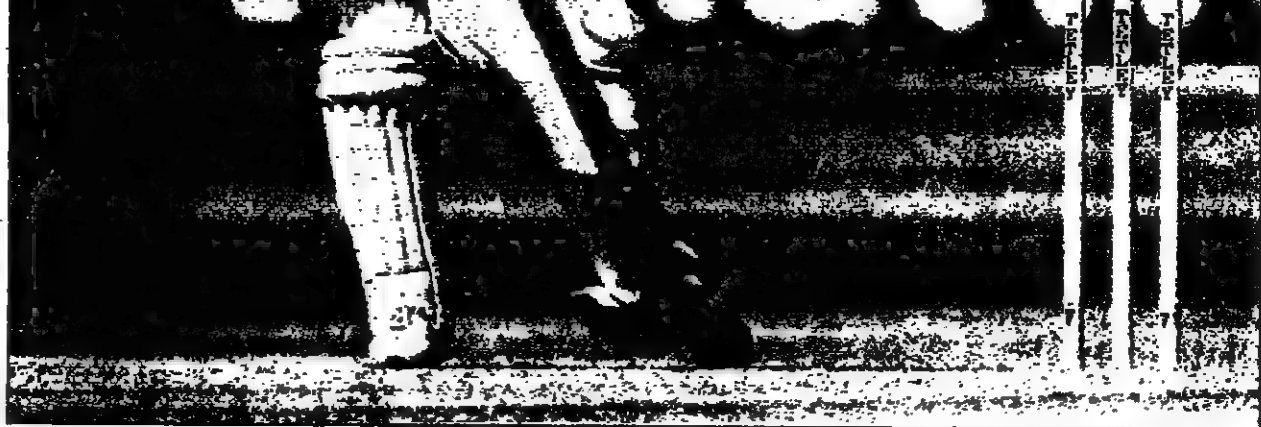
Hick's poor run at Test level, including only 35 runs in the three Tests against India, would be thought nothing unusual or alarming if he was savaging county attacks between times. He used to do it routinely; now, quite suddenly, it is the routine that seems to have got on top of him.

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Worcestershire were not in complete accord with his desire to miss their last championship match, against Yorkshire, but acceded to the request made by David Lloyd, the England coach. Explaining it later, Lloyd said: "I look at players when they leave a game. If someone is suffering, if he is obviously laid up, I feel it's my duty to speak to his county."

It is this that is so worrying about Hick. He says he has not been sleeping well, but he looks like a man with the world on his shoulders and his mind in neutral. The joy has gone from his cricket, along with the flair and certainty of stroke and of slip catch.

England's selectors will be watching, over the coming three days, studying his outward state of mind as much as



Saeed lashes a ball from Brown to the cover boundary on his way to a century before lunch at Edgbaston

Saeed gives England fair warning

By Simon Wilde

EDGBASTON (Pakistan) *wasn't* Warwickshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 198 runs behind the Pakistanis

IT WAS a tale of two left-handed operators at Edgbaston yesterday, both of whom may feature strongly in the first Test match at Lord's next week. Nick Knight signed a persuasive claim to be recalled after injury by England and placed in the Pakistan side, scored a sparkling century before lunch.

If Saeed's run-a-ball 131 was the highlight of the day, David Lloyd, the watching England coach, will also have been impressed by Knight's composure in safely negotiating the final 90 minutes.

He survived a strong leg-

before appeal from his first ball from Waqar Younis — who soon left the field with further hamstring trouble — but then handled everything a varied attack could provide to reach 42 out of 99 for two.

Saeed took a heavy toll of some indifferent bowling from a Warwickshire attack lacking Small and Pollock but there was no doubting his talent. He looked to score at every opportunity and hit the ball with

glorious freedom, delighting a noisy contingent of supporters. Admittedly, one square boundary was short but his tally of 20 fours and three sixes ought to serve as warning enough to England's bowlers that he will permit them no leeway. Nor will Inzamam-ul-Haq, who struck 51 in a partnership of 129.

Saeed's century was his third in six first-class innings on this tour. He has punished

some ordinary bowling in that time and Lloyd will have noted the way he drove ambitiously at balls outside off stump and edged perilously near to close catchers, before the stroke brought his downfall.

Nor are Pakistan without batting concerns. Ijaz Ahmed and Salim Malik — who was feebly first before Brown to his first first-class ball of the tour — remain woefully short of runs and if Ijaz cannot provide solidity at No 3, Asif Mujtaba could gain promotion. He alone showed a willingness to drop anchor.

The Pakistani innings was a curious affair. They scored 187 for two in 36 overs before lunch and 110 for eight from 37.4 overs afterwards. Three different bowlers were on hat-tricks — Brown, Altree and Giles. Welch would have been a fourth had not Burns dropped Ijaz off his first ball.

Crookes steadies ship

DEREK CROOKES hit a century off 71 balls at Cardiff yesterday as the South Africa middle order punished some below-par Glamorgan bowling on the first day of their three-day match. He shared a fifth-wicket partnership of 180 in only 32 overs with Hilton Ackerman, who

made 99, as South Africa recovered from 41 for four, when Crookes went in, to reach 346. Crookes was out soon after lunch, bowled by Parkin for 105.

By the close, Glamorgan were 96 for five off 20 overs, still needing 101 to avoid the follow-on.

The Pakistani innings was a curious affair. They scored 187 for two in 36 overs before lunch and 110 for eight from 37.4 overs afterwards. Three different bowlers were on hat-tricks — Brown, Altree and Giles. Welch would have been a fourth had not Burns dropped Ijaz off his first ball.

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE DINES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

| Pos | Team (Player's name) | Runs | Wickets | Total |
|-----|-----------------------------|------|---------|-------|
| 1 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 2 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 3 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 4 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 5 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 6 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 7 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 8 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 9 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 10 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 11 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 12 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 13 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 14 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 15 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 16 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 17 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 18 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 19 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 20 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 21 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 22 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 23 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 24 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 25 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 26 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 27 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 28 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 29 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 30 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 31 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 32 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 33 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 34 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 35 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 36 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 37 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 38 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 39 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 40 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 41 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 42 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 43 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 44 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 45 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 46 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 47 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 48 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 49 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 50 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 51 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 52 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 53 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 54 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 55 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 56 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 57 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 58 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 59 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 60 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 61 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 62 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 63 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 64 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 65 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 66 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 67 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 68 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 69 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 70 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 71 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 72 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 73 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 74 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 75 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 76 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 77 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 78 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 79 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 80 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 81 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 82 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 83 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 84 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 85 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 86 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 87 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 88 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 89 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 90 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 91 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 92 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 93 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 94 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 95 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 96 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 97 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 98 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 99 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |
| 100 | Barons (Giles 2 (J. Eaton)) | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 |

SCOREBOARDS

| Team | Runs | Wickets | Time |
|--------------|------|---------|------------|
| Warwickshire | 187 | 2 | 36 overs |
| Pakistan | 110 | 8 | 37.4 overs |

INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

The scores in brackets are the points scored in the last week: the other scores are the cumulative points scored since the start of the season. The figures include all matches compiled by July 15. Overseas players are shown in bold type. Rising Stars in *italic*.

| Player (No) | Runs | Wickets | Total |
|--------------------------|------|---------|-------|
| Batsmen (001-135) | | | |
| C A Adams (001) | 1031 | 0 | 1031 |
| G F Aher (002) | 395 | 0 | 395 |
| M A Ahern (003) | 654 | 0 | 654 |
| C W Aher (004) | 508 | 0 | 508 |
| M Acharndine (005) | 439 | 0 | 439 |
| R A Bailey (006) | 641 | 0 | 641 |
| A J Barrett (007) | 801 | 0 | 801 |
| B R Benson (008) | 119 | 0 | 119 |
| D J Bicknell (009) | 778 | 0 | 778 |
| D A Blinkhorn (010) | 246 | 0 | 246 |
| D A Blinkhorn (011) | 786 | 0 | 786 |
| P D Bowler (012) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| B Eines (013) | 391 | 0 | 391 |
| A D Brown (014) | 465 | 0 | 465 |
| R T Brown (015) | 598 | 0 | 598 |
| B Campbell (016) | 218 | 0 | 218 |
| J O Carr (017) | 588 | 0 | 588 |
| M L Church (018) | 335 | 0 | 335 |
| P A Conary (019) | 467 | 0 | 467 |
| G R Cowley (020) | 272 | 0 | 272 |
| P J Crampton (021) | 292 | 0 | 292 |
| P F Crampton (022) | 220 | 0 | 220 |
| T F Cune (023) | 115 | 0 | 115 |
| T F Cune (024) | 37 | 0 | 37 |
| J A Daley (025) | 79 | 0 | 79 |
| A J Dalton (026) | 31 | 0 | 31 |
| R T Denison (027) | 512 | 0 | 512 |
| P M Downham (028) | 512 | 0 | 512 |
| N H Fawcett (029) | 312 | 0 | 312 |
| A Elliott (030) | 622 | 0 | 622 |
| A Ffrench (031) | 402 | 0 | 402 |
| J E R Gahan (032) | 557 | 0 | 557 |
| M W Giddard (033) | 658 | 0 | 658 |
| S A Gilling (034) | 873 | 0 | 873 |
| A Givens (035) | 210 | 0 | 210 |
| A Habb (036) | 525 | 0 | 525 |
| M Hall (037) | 567 | 0 | 567 |
| T H C Hall (038) | 1040 | 0 | 1040 |
| M Hearn (039) | 641 | 0 | 641 |
| M E Hearn (040) | 22 | 0 | 22 |
| M E Hearn (041) | 62 | 0 | 62 |
| M E Hearn (042) | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| M E Hearn (043) | 578 | 0 | 578 |
| G R Haynes (044) | 861 | 0 | 861 |
| D L Hemp (045) | 1021 | 0 | 1021 |
| C A Hux (046) | 578 | 0 | 578 |
| A J Hollocke (047) | 861 | 0 | 861 |
| N Husson (048) | 435 | 0 | 435 |
| S Huxford (049) | 588 | 0 | 588 |
| J Iaz Ahmed (050) | 79 | 0 | 79 |
| Inzarnem-Had (051) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| P Johnson (052) | 486 | 0 | 486 |
| D M Jones (053) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M Jones (054) | 273 | 0 | 273 |
| M Jones (055) | 444 | 0 | 444 |
| M Jones (056) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| S Jones (057) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| G G Jones (058) | 538 | 0 | 538 |
| W G Khan (059) | 617 | 0 | 617 |
| N V Knight (060) | 342 | 0 | 342 |
| J S Lancy (061) | 442 | 0 | 442 |
| M L Nair (062) | 942 | 0 | 942 |
| S G Law (063) | 419 | 0 | 419 |
| D A Leathbridge (064) | 157 | 0 | 157 |
| N J Lennan (065) | 157 | 0 | 157 |
| G L Lewis (066) | 517 | 0 | 517 |
| N J Long (067) | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| G L Long (068) | 530 | 0 | 530 |
| G L Long (069) | 133 | 0 | 133 |
| M L Love (070) | 51 | 0 | 51 |
| M L Love (071) | 51 | 0 | 51 |
| M L Love (072) | 51 | 0 | 51 |
| D L Maughy (073) | 509 | 0 | 509 |
| S V Manjivkar (074) | 708 | 0 | 708 |
| M P Mearns (075) | 670 | 0 | 670 |
| A A McGrath (076) | 670 | 0 | 670 |
| A A McGrath (077) | 640 | 0 | 640 |
| A A McGrath (078) | 741 | 0 | 741 |
| A A McGrath (079) | 741 | 0 | 741 |
| R M Moody (080) | 342 | 0 | 342 |
| R M Moody (081) | 369 | 0 | 369 |
| R M Moody (082) | 195 | 0 | 195 |
| R M Moody (083) | 615 | 0 | 615 |
| M M Moore (084) | 105 | 0 | 105 |
| M M Moore (085) | 131 | 0 | 131 |
| T J G O'Connor (086) | 484 | 0 | 484 |
| P O O'Connor (087) | 49 | 0 | 49 |
| E O O'Connor (088) | 29 | 0 | 29 |
| R O O'Connor (089) | 349 | 0 | 349 |
| T P O'Connor (090) | 363 | 0 | 363 |

The transfer line will open at 6pm each Tuesday and will close at 6pm the following Monday. All transfers made during this period will be applied to team selectors' teams prior to the commencement of the next first-class match (transfer limits may be altered slightly to accommodate schedule of first-class matches and prior notification will be published in *The Times*). Transfers may only be made by telephone by calling

0891 886 984

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|---|-----|
| P J Procter (091) | 387 | 0 | 387 |
| M R Procter (092) | 523 | 0 | 523 |
| J D Ricketts (093) | 803 | 0 | 803 |
| D J J Robinson (094) | 470 | 0 | 470 |
| P Robinson (095) | 794 | 0 | 794 |
| R Robinson (096) | 709 | 0 | 709 |
| A P Robinson (097) | 663 | 0 | 663 |
| R Robinson (098) | 465 | 0 | 465 |
| M A Roseberry (100) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| Saved Arms (101) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| J A Shah (102) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| M L Smith (103) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Salim Malik (104) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| D J Sales (105) | 17 | 0 | 17 |
| P J Sales (106) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (107) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (108) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (109) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (110) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (111) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (112) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (113) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (114) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (115) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (116) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (117) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (118) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (119) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (120) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (121) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (122) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (123) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (124) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (125) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (126) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (127) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (128) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (129) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (130) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (131) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (132) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (133) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (134) | 171 | 0 | 171 |
| P J Sales (135) | 171 | 0 | 171 |

All-rounders (150-200)

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---|-----|
| Amit Sah (151) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| M V Sah (152) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| D A Smith (153) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (154) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (155) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (156) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (157) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (158) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (159) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (160) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (161) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (162) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (163) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (164) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (165) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (166) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (167) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (168) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (169) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (170) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (171) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (172) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (173) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (174) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (175) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (176) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (177) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (178) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (179) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (180) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (181) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (182) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (183) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (184) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (185) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (186) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (187) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (188) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (189) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (190) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (191) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (192) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (193) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (194) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (195) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (196) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (197) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (198) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (199) | 377 | 0 | 377 |
| P B Smith (200) | 377 | 0 | 377 |

A team selector may transfer up to two players in higher team per transfer period. Whether you are transferring one or two players, your team must be rendered correct according to the format of five batsmen, one all-rounder, four bowlers and four wicketkeepers including one rising star and one overseas player (but no more than one of either) by the end of the call. You may check your team score and position in *ITC* by calling the *ITC* Check Line on

0891 774 779

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|---|-----|
| D C Rose (186) | 111 | 0 | 111 |
| V S Sorensen (187) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| N M K Smith (188) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| P A Smith (189) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| J N Smith (190) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| P J Smith (191) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| P J Smith (192) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| P J Smith (193) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| P J Smith (194) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| P J Smith (195) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| P J Smith (196) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| P J Smith (197) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| P J Smith (198) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| P J Smith (199) | 288 | 0 | 288 |
| P J Smith (200) | 288 | 0 | 288 |

Wicketkeepers (225-256)

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|---|-----|
| A N Ayres (225) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| R J Bailey (226) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| S Bailey (227) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| M Baines (228) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| S Baines (229) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (230) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (231) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (232) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (233) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (234) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (235) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (236) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (237) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (238) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (239) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (240) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (241) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (242) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (243) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (244) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (245) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (246) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (247) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (248) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (249) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (250) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (251) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (252) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (253) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (254) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (255) | 468 | 0 | 468 |
| P C L Baines (256) | 468 | 0 | 468 |

Bowlers (275-404)

| | | | |
|-----------------|----|---|----|
| P R Adams (275) | 27 | 0 | 27 |
| A J Adams (276) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| U Adams (277) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (278) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| S J Adams (279) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (280) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (281) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (282) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (283) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (284) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (285) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (286) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (287) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (288) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (289) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (290) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (291) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (292) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (293) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (294) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (295) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (296) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (297) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (298) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (299) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (300) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (301) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (302) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (303) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (304) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (305) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (306) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (307) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (308) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (309) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (310) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (311) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (312) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (313) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (314) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (315) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (316) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (317) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (318) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (319) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
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| P Adams (321) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (322) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (323) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
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| P Adams (331) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (332) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (333) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
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| P Adams (336) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
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| P Adams (338) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (339) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (340) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (341) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (342) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (343) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
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| P Adams (355) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (356) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (357) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (358) | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| P Adams (359) | 1 | | |

CYCLING: RIIS STRENGTHENS GRIP ON TOUR DE FRANCE AS RIVAL FADES ON HOME GROUND

Induráin's chance expires in mountains

By Peter Bryan

AFTER a punishing day of climbing in the Pyrenees, with temperatures in the thirties and the car on the roads turning almost liquid, Miguel Induráin now knows that whatever happens to the overall lead of the Tour de France between today and the finish in Paris on Sunday, he cannot hope to win the race for the sixth year in succession.

On yesterday's seventeenth stage of 262km from Argeles-Gazost, which the 143 survivors at the start knew would mean more than seven hours in the saddle, Induráin was faced with making up or at least reducing Bjørn Riis's lead of 7min 03sec on a marathon that would take him past his parents' farm only six kilometres from the finish in Pamplona.

It turned out to be a mission impossible for the Spaniard, who saw his Tour hopes disappear in the high mountains that have been his training ground for the last 12 years. Riis, winner of the previous day's stage with its mountain-top finish at Lourdes-Hautacam, was again the architect of further embarrassment to Induráin, driving a breakaway group of eight towards the finish line. His only disappointment of the day was to finish second, half a wheel's length behind Laurent Dufaux, of Switzerland. The pair battled out the final two kilometres through the streets packed with spectators hoping to see Induráin being at the front.

Riis made four attacks on Dufaux as the pair left their

original six companions struggling behind, spent from their rollercoaster day in the mountains. Indeed, the Dane's show of strength at the end was amazing. Long before the finish, he had drilled the group into a cohesive working squad, each rider taking a mere five or six seconds on the front before relaying ahead the man behind. All would benefit if they could stay clear and relegate riders of the quality of Tony Rominger, Evgeni Berzin and, of course, Induráin.

The plan worked. At the end of the stage, Riis had increased his overall lead over Jan Ullrich, a Telekom team colleague and a generous worker in the defence of his captain, and put more time between himself and Roger Virenque, the leader of the King of the Mountain classification.

Most important of all was the time lost by his earlier challengers, Abraham Olano, who dropped from second at 2min 42sec to ninth, Ilmari Järvelin, and Rominger, third before the start and still a danger at 2min 54sec, but now tenth and Ilmari 24sec in arrears.

Neil Stephens, of Australia, had sparked off much of the day's action, deciding that his group of three that had gone into an early lead were not going fast enough. He bade his farewell to them close to the summit of the Souder, a peak rising to 1,500 metres.

On a breathtaking descent, Stephens found the road blocked by Basque demonstrators, some of whom avoided a police cordon. Stephens



Induráin struggles in what he had hoped would be a triumphant stage across the Pyrenees yesterday

appeared to be jostled and must have lost at least 15 seconds, but once he remounted, he remained in the lead for another ten minutes before Riis and company came storming up and swept past him.

Riis lost a little time, too, with mechanical trouble. As he rode alongside his team car, a mechanic tried to prise away something lodged between the gear sprockets. Riis was still not happy and came to a halt to allow the fault to be cleared properly.

Virenque was another of the leaders who had to stop. The Frenchman suffered a rear puncture, but wisely delayed a wheel change until he was over the summit of a climb to add a speedy return to the leaders.

At one point halfway through the race, the chasing group, which included Induráin, Rominger and Olano, started to chip away at the leaders' advantage, reducing it to 3min 25sec, but by the final hour their enthusiasm and energy had disappeared.

TOUR DETAILS

SEVENTEENTH STAGE (262km, Argeles-Gazost to Pamplona) 1. I. Dufaux (Swi), 2. B. Riis (Den), 3. L. Dufaux (Sui), 4. J. Ullrich (Ger), 5. L. Järvelin (Fin), 6. P. Rominger (Ger), 7. R. Virenque (Fra), 8. A. Olano (Esp), 9. N. Stephens (Aus), 10. M. Induráin (Esp), 11. M. Järvelin (Fin), 12. M. Järvelin (Fin), 13. M. Järvelin (Fin), 14. M. Järvelin (Fin), 15. M. Järvelin (Fin), 16. M. Järvelin (Fin), 17. M. Järvelin (Fin), 18. M. Järvelin (Fin), 19. M. Järvelin (Fin), 20. M. Järvelin (Fin), 21. M. Järvelin (Fin), 22. M. Järvelin (Fin), 23. M. Järvelin (Fin), 24. M. Järvelin (Fin), 25. M. Järvelin (Fin), 26. M. Järvelin (Fin), 27. M. Järvelin (Fin), 28. M. Järvelin (Fin), 29. M. Järvelin (Fin), 30. M. Järvelin (Fin), 31. M. Järvelin (Fin), 32. M. Järvelin (Fin), 33. M. Järvelin (Fin), 34. M. Järvelin (Fin), 35. M. Järvelin (Fin), 36. M. Järvelin (Fin), 37. M. Järvelin (Fin), 38. M. Järvelin (Fin), 39. M. Järvelin (Fin), 40. M. Järvelin (Fin), 41. M. Järvelin (Fin), 42. M. 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GOLF: TORMENTED SCOT CUTS SHORT PRACTICE ROUND AND SEEKS TO REDISCOVER RHYTHM ON EVE OF OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

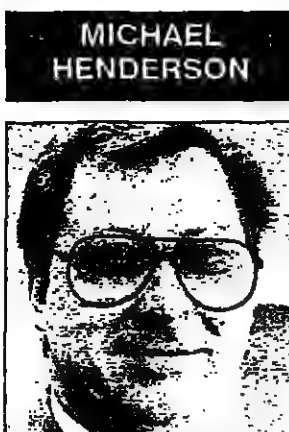
Montgomerie suffers wild mood swing

THE sun beat down ferociously yesterday turning the Elyde coast into a little piece of the Mediterranean, but wherever a large Scotsman roamed there was a not-so-little cloud hanging above his head, threatening to tip its load. By the time Colin Montgomerie aborted his practice round in mid-afternoon he was wrapped in a Scotch mist.

Montgomerie was not disposed to talk about his golf; now there is a tale. Normally he has a quip for every occasion, like Bet Lynch. He spent the afternoon doing his "prep"; there is another tale. When he was meant to be fielding inquiries about his swing he was out on the practice ground, trying to mend it. For an hour and a half he hit balls into the clear blue yonder in an attempt to find the rhythm and touch that are proving elusive. Mentally he might have been back in Carnoustie, where he ended the Scottish Open last week with a round of 81.

Alistair McLean proved a loyal caddy last night. "He will be ready," he said. "There is nobody with a better swing than Colin. It may not be the most beautiful but he has superb timing." We will see. Parliamentary private secretaries say as much about their ministers.

He had all of a day to sort himself out and the signs last night were not encouraging. After Carnoustie he admitted he needed "several days of very hard work to get my swing sorted out", and that remains the position. Bill Ferguson, his coach, watched over him, offering a word here and there, and friends and colleagues came by to share a jest. Even so, Montgomerie's resigned smile suggested he was gripped by that unexpected power that grips sports-



At Royal Lytham and St Annes

men when they feel least vulnerable and sucks their blood.

The day did not start too badly. He trotted off at a decent hour with Ian Woosnam, Barry Lane and Frank Nobilo, exchanged pleasantries along the way, was seen to smile and signed a few autographs. He looked trim in his red shirt and seemed not too displeased with his golf. It does not take long for his mood to change and by the time this foursome had completed the 15th hole, some three hours later, the practice ground had suddenly developed an irresistible attraction.

Instead of crossing to the 16th hole, he whacked two balls from the 18th tee and strode off towards the clubhouse in a huff. He was not giving autographs by that stage. Though some younger members of a teeming crowd sought his signature, their parents warned against bothering a man at war with himself.

There are, of course, gradations of despair. A plumber who is not enjoying his job can always go for a tea-break, come back and have another go. An accountant who messes up his sums has not got an army of spectators in his office to josh him. It cannot be good for a formidable golfer to underachieve in public, particularly at practice; it must eat at his professional armour. But we should not feel too sorry for him. Others suffer worse things every day and, if he feels really miffed, he can always count his millions.

Millions in the bank, however, and a prominent place in the Order of Merit will never make a great golfer and Montgomerie is not a great golfer, yet.

He must be heartily fed up with people wondering whether he will ever win a major championship but his irritation is not going to stop them wondering. The longer he goes without crossing the Rubicon the deeper the river will become and the higher the tide. There are times when Montgomerie sounds as if he is drowning in self-pity.

Nobody can be accepted as a great King Lear if he drops Cordelia in the last act, or thanks Goneril for her hospitality. Nobody can be considered a truly outstanding golfer until he wins a major and such knowledge will eventually devour Montgomerie unless he walks through the fire.

Since Tom Watson won the last of his five Open Championships at Royal Birkdale in 1983 only two Americans have been triumphant. The order has changed and is still changing. Montgomerie must look at the names of those winners and think, "I'm due." He is, right now.

You know what they say about poor dress rehearsals.



A pensive Montgomerie at the 12th yesterday before adjourning to the practice ground to try to solve his problems

Lytham's capacity to cope in question

By John Hopkins
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

COULD the ninth Open at Royal Lytham and St Annes be the last? Massive crowds descended on the Lancashire course yesterday on the last day of practice and if the good weather continues then the record attendance figure of 190,000 at this venue in 1988 seems certain to be smashed.

Spectators were queuing to get into the course before the gates opened and throughout a long, hot day marshals were confounded by the number of spectators.

And therein lies a problem. Certain parts of the course were extremely congested and it may now be that the 126-acre site is not big enough to cope with the twin problems of exceptionally large crowds, brought out by the weather, and the commercial demands of the modern Open. The practice ground, for example, is smaller and narrower than some players expected.

The Open venues are known for the next four years — Royal Troon next year, Royal Birkdale, in 1998, and Carnoustie, in 1999, before it returns to St Andrews, the home of golf, in 2000. Considerations such as space are going to assume great importance when courses to be used from 2001 onwards come up for discussion.

The difficulty at Lytham is a little to do with its size, which is far less than Royal St George's 350 acres, and a little to do with its shape. Lytham is an out and back course with the ninth green at the furthest point from the clubhouse, next to the Ainsdale and Fairhaven railway station. Even though the railway line runs down one side of the course, space has proved adequate in the past.

Now, though, the Open may be entering a new phase in its history. The success of European golf whether it is in the Ryder, Walker or Curtis Cups, or individual players such as Nick Faldo in the Masters, is increasing the status of the Open as a spectator attraction.

The total attendance for the four practice days at Lytham has been just under 35,000, which is comparable with the figures for the same days when the Open was last played here.

"Lytham is a very popular venue and very successful," Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, said. "There is no reason to think that the Open would not come back again."

Tee-off times and a hole-by-hole guide to the course are contained in today's Open 96 supplement

Veterans who inspire generations

THERE were, four of them, combined ages 228 years and seven months, grizzled veterans all and yet as bright and as bushy-tailed as the tenderest rookies about their golf and the prospect of playing in the greatest of all championships. The cast may change slightly from year to year, but its character and its timeless quality always provides one of the highlights of Open Championship week.

The great match usually takes place on the day before the Championship starts, and there are four inviolate rules: first, that it is a four-ball, second, that it is composed of the good and the great, third, that it should contain Jack Nicklaus, and fourth, that it shall provide a memory for those lucky enough to witness it that will never fade.

The quartet yesterday was composed of, in addition to Nicklaus, Gary Player, Bob Charles and Brian Barnes, who between them have won 28 majors and too many other titles to count. They have also earned enough money to put Croesus on the breadline, but the money is but an incidental, for it is not money that has motivated them all their sporting lives.

Rather, it is power, influence and pride: the power that comes from being important players in, and beyond, their time, the influence they have

Mel Webb feels privileged to be allowed to witness the skills of a famous quartet

had on generations of golfers, and the pride they have, rightly, in their own performance.

One is aware, of course, of the passage of time, but it always comes as a small shock to realise that men of this stamp are also growing old. Player is a little stooped now, Nicklaus's face lined by ten thousand days in the sun, Charles's pencil-thin frame even more spare and angular than when he was in his pomp, the ever-sturdy Barnes just a little thicker amidships.

And yet, when they step up to address a golf ball, the

decades slip away like a beggar's cloak and what is left is untouched by the years. Whatever else they may have lost, their swings remain as pure as when they were in their salad days. These are the memories to savour from these people, and to watch them is a rare privilege.

In the small caravan that danced attendance on them on the fairways yesterday were two of Nicklaus's sons, Steve, who was carrying his father's bag, and Gary, who in final qualifying this week so narrowly failed to join Nicklaus Sr in the tournament proper.



Player, left, and Nicklaus get in some practice before the start of the Open Championship at Royal Lytham

They must have watched their father play hundreds of rounds, yet even they seemed touched.

The Nicklauses did not come to the match at its beginning; Jack had a niggling pain in his back, so did not join in until the 5th hole. Once there, he took some time to get the back fully mobile, but when he did he was as majestic as he has ever been.

When he was in his pomp Nicklaus had the ability to make the ball seem to explode off his clubhead, and retains it to this day. There is something thrilling about watching the man who is possibly the greatest player in history to hit a golf ball.

There was present in this match the ingredients to make up the definitively perfect golfer. There was the inspired bunker play of Player, the smoothness of the Charles putting stroke, the shot-making skills of Barnes. And Nicklaus? He was just Nicklaus, who at his best did not have a weakness to speak of, and still does not have many.

For four and a half hours they went round the course. You could see the relish in their eyes. They did not want it to stop, and neither did the gallery. They were back where once they had reigned supreme. In their own way, they still do.

Timely reminders of talent that put Lyle in top drawer

By Patricia Davies

THE ball was in a bad lie, in a bunker. The green was 195 yards away, into the wind. "Lay up," the caddy advised. "No, I'll have a go," the player said. He muscled a five-iron onto the green and the caddy was suitably impressed. "I'd forgotten just how talented you are," he said.

If even Roger Morgan, Sandy Lyle's caddy, needed a reminder of the raw talent the Shropshire-born Scot possesses, what about the rest of us? The bookmakers rate Lyle, the former Open and Masters champion, no better than an 80-1 shot to win this year's Open Championship.

In truth, it is little wonder that the affable 38-year-old has been filed under "champions, past". He has not played in the last four Ryder Cup matches, he has not won in the United States since that Masters victory of 1988 and he has not won in Europe since the Volvo Masters of 1992.

However, Lyle tees off in his twentieth Open Championship this afternoon knowing he is coming into form. The demonstration of skill took place at the Murphy's Irish Open two weeks ago when Lyle finished in a tie for seventeenth and he was joint

eleventh at the Scottish Open. Even more unusually, he is putting well, with a voguish, long-handled implement. "He's played six competitive rounds with it," Morgan said, "and he's averaging under 30 puts a round."

The resurgence is timely, for the putting will need to be as scorching as the weather predicted for Lytham. Lyle, who has broken 70 only eight times at the Open, reckoned it might take four rounds in the 60's to win if the conditions persist. "The course is playing very fair at the moment," he said. "The fairways are nar-



Welch: abundance of potential

row and it might look tough, but the grass is not as strong as it can be."

Lyle eschewed a practice round yesterday, denying the spectators a sight of him with Michael Welch, the 23-year-old former prodigy from Hill Valley. "We could have played on Tuesday," Lyle said, "but I went early and he was still in his bed."

Welch, born in Shrewsbury — as Lyle was — and coached by Alex Lyle, Sandy's father, who died earlier this year, had a sparkling junior career but has had a torrid first season on the PGA European tour, missing 12 of 14 cuts. However, a good omen is that Daniel McGowan, his caddy this week, was the bag carrier when Welch tied for 12th in the Alamo English Open and saw his name on the leaderboard for the first time.

Lyle, who knows all about the burdens of potential, is sure that the talent will out. "It's a five-year learning process, to get used to the Tour. Potential-wise, Michael has a bright future."

As for himself? "I'm not getting nervous about the game," he said. So, against the odds, there might be a bright Lytham for Lyle.



Tee-off times and a hole-by-hole guide to the course are contained in today's Open 96 supplement

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Francis signs two-year deal at Tottenham

GERRY FRANCIS, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, yesterday agreed to sign a contract for the first time since his move from Queens Park Rangers in November 1994 (Russell Kempson writes). It ties him to the club for the next two years.

Francis, 44, who has a thriving antiques business, has always preferred to work under short-term or gentlemen's agreements, at Tottenham, Rangers and Bristol Rovers.

Robert Ullathorne, the Norwich City defender, has become the first English player to take advantage of the Bosman ruling by joining Osasuna, of Spain, on a free transfer.

O'Brien survives test of nerve

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT, IN CROSSHAVEN, CO CORK

RACING at Ford Cork Week has always been a little more exciting than at other regattas, because race officials like to start the small boats first, leaving the big ones to catch up and sail through them, which makes for a great spectacle, but also some hairy moments.

On board the 82ft Maxi, Sorcery, the biggest yacht at the regatta, the skipper, Paddy O'Brien, has had his nerve tested to the limit as he has attempted to thread the huge yacht through the armada converging on race marks. In yesterday's first race — Sorcery's third in the series — Class 0 was recalled after its first start, allowing the small-

er Class 1 and 2 yachts to get away, but it was not long before the maxi was in amongst them.

At one point, power-reaching under spinnaker on port tack, O'Brien suddenly threw the helm down to avoid the Contessa 32 Nyaminyani, which was racing in Class 7 and going to windward on starboard and was hidden until the last moment.

"Starting the small boats first is a recipe for disaster," O'Brien said. "The racing here is good, but they are not used to having big boats and the legs are a bit short — we get round the course a bit quickly for the others," he added.

Sorcery, which is owned by Jake Wood, from Thousand Oaks, California, was second at Antigua Race Week this year behind Maximiser. At Cork she has nothing to race against and has taken line honours in every race, leaving O'Brien and his 25-strong crew to race the clock and the handicap. She was lying fifth overall in her class yesterday after finishing 11th in the first race behind Richard Mathew's Exer Girl.

The overall leader in the class is Jocelyn Waller's Bashford-Howison 41 Silk 2, from Colm Barrington's Surfin' Shoes, also a BH 41, with Terry Robinson's Swan 48 Assage third.

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| 20/1 B. Langer | 40/1 M. O'Meara |
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Much Wenlock lays claim to its Olympic birthright

History books will record that the first Olympic contest of 1996 was abandoned because of torrential rain. We are not talking of the Coca-Cola City of Atlanta here, but the real thing — Much Wenlock — where they have just staged the 110th Wenlock Olympian Games.

This tiny Shropshire town reckons itself to be the true cradle of the modern Olympic movement, for it has been running games modelled on those of classical Greece since 1850. The opening ceremony of this year's festival revolved around a cricket match between a Wenlock Olympian team and the Road Runners of Shrewsbury. Wenlock were 67 for one when rain washed out the contest. But there was plenty more to come with archery, athletics, fencing, bowling — and even the launch of a romantic fictionalised novel about the Olympic movement entitled *The Golden Flame*.

The more publicised Olympic flame arrives amid unprecedented hype in Atlanta tomorrow to set off the celebrations for the hundredth anniversary of the modern Olympic Games. There will be much talk

of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, honoured by history as the self-styled founding father of the Olympics. But in Much Wenlock they know better.

They have their own local hero, a doctor named William Penny Brookes, who was ahead of de Coubertin by almost half a century in reviving the ancient Olympiad. Not only that, as his biographer Helen Cromarty is eager to point

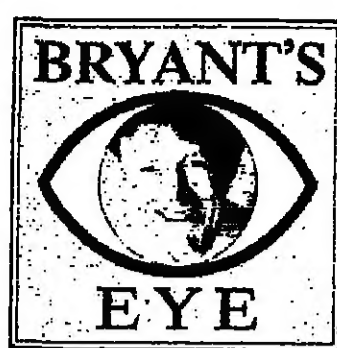


Brookes inspirational role

out, he met de Coubertin and passed on like a relay torch his detailed blueprint for the modern Olympic Games.

The French aristocrat grabbed the project with enthusiasm, initially acknowledging his debt to the Englishman. In 1890 he wrote: "If the Olympic Games, which modern Greece has not been able to revive, still survive today, it is not to a Greek that we are indebted, but rather to Dr W. P. Brookes."

But by the time the games were up and running, de Coubertin was apparently suffering an Olympian loss of memory, and taking all the credit for the revival for himself. There was not a mention of Brookes as the baron dashed off articles such as "Why I Revived the Olympic Games". If rip-offs had been in the Olympics, this one would have carried off the gold.



a dreamer, who in 1850 founded the Wenlock Olympian Society to "promote the moral, physical and intellectual improvement of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Wenlock, and especially of the Working Classes".

Dr Brookes clearly believed that large doses of healthy exercise would keep men off the streets and out of the pubs. He took as his inspiration and model the ancient Olympics, and although his first games were a mixture of old country sports — from cricket and quoits to athletics — there was much pageantry that was self-consciously Greek and Olympian.

He paraded banners with Greek inscriptions, and winners were honoured with laurel branches and medals bearing a representation of Nike — the Greek goddess of victory. Brookes also built up strong contacts with Greece and in 1877 the Greek King, George I, even donated a silver cup to be awarded to the winner of the pentathlon.

The effect of all this Olympic veneer made a deep impression on a young French aristocrat, who was eager to pedal physical education to what he considered to be the degenerate youth of his native France. De Coubertin liked the idea of the Olympic festival so much that he hijacked it and went on to claim it as his own. It is not the winning that matters, as the old baron might have said, it is the taking the credit.

The remarkable double act of Dr Brookes and de Coubertin is chronicled in great detail in *The Golden Flame* launched by the Irish author, Gabriel Murray, at Much Wenlock. Murray concludes of de Coubertin: "It was in England that he had discovered Greece. It was there he learnt of Olympia and found the ideal of his life."

The sun shone warmly on the grass track at Wenlock's Linden Fields at the weekend, and the sight of spectators and competitors picnicking with their tea and sandwiches evoked a sporting era left way behind by the other Olympic Games. Just two summers ago, though, the International Olympic Committee acknowledged how great was their debt to the founder of the Wenlock Olympian Games.



De Coubertin took the credit

They sent their president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to pay homage to Brookes and plant an oak in his memory. When asked why he had come to Much Wenlock, Samaranch replied: "Because this is where the modern Olympics all started."

Dr William Penny Brookes may well be a disgracefully forgotten hero, but at least one of the athletes who was to come his way is still remembered in our time. In 1865, lobbying by Brookes led to the setting up of the National Olympian Society, which laid on its Olympic Games at Crystal Palace the next year.

A young cricketer, playing at the Oval, organised a substitute fielder, and jogged across the London suburbs to Sydenham where, before a crowd of 10,000, he won the 440 yards hurdles. He then ran back to the Oval to complete the match in which he scored a double-century.

The name of the hero who had made such efforts to win his Brookes Olympian Games medal? It was W. G. Grace.

JOHN BRYANT

OLYMPIC GAMES

Capital growth necessary for London to bid

FROM DAVID MILLER IN ATLANTA

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY, who, in the ministerial game of pass-the-parcel, at present carries the Government's ultimate responsibility for British sport, arrives in Atlanta today. She will attend the opening ceremony of the centenary Olympic Games tomorrow and, in the space of a four-day visit, will attempt to grasp what is required to host the world's most important sporting event. Some chance.

The Atlanta organising committee began ten years ago admitting that it knew nothing and is still trying to catch up with only 24 hours to go. The Games will be over before some of the problems, such as the press transportation system, are solved. It was ever thus.

Mrs Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, in a rash of enthusiasm amid the euphoria of Euro 96, proclaimed: "And now on to hosting the World Cup and then the Olympic Games."

Where, though, is the Government's contribution to the £1 billion budget for the latter? Craig Reddie, as chairman of the British Olympic Association (BOA), holds the responsibility of whether and when another bid should be made to host the Games, after failures by Birmingham and Manchester. An informal poll among fellow members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at the session in Budapest last year confirmed the bottom line: the next attempt has to be by London.

On that basis, Reddie last autumn took the next necessary decision: that a London bid for 2004 would be unlikely to get past the IOC's evaluation commission, which reduces candidates to a shortlist. With no relationship established with Government on central issues such as where to build an Olympic village, and how to relate that to London's throttled transportation — a new underground link? — a bid for 2004 was likely to be wasted time and money.

Looking at the multibillion-dollar government development programmes being undertaken by Rome and Athens, two of the leading contenders for 2004, all 11 of whom are present in Atlanta

with low-key campaigns, Reddie recognised that a first priority is the establishment of the BOA's authority within the proposed British Academy of Sport. The Government's proposed prospectus for organisations wishing to make bids for administering the academy is expected to be released in the next few days.

"We want to be in a management and controlling role [in the academy] because we know more about elite sport than anybody else," Reddie said. "There is only one organisation in the fragmented



structure of British sport [Sports Council, Central Council of Physical Recreation, regional sports authorities] that is wholly and truly British, and that is the BOA. The major sports such as rugby and soccer have to get involved. We are speaking to them. No one else is."

There will be £100 million available from the National Lottery for the establishment of the academy. To that, the BOA would add its own private sector investment.

Much will depend on which city is granted 2004 at the vote in September next year. The BOA's strategy cannot be determined until then. If the new host is from Europe, then a London bid would make no sense until 2012, the probability being that 2008 would be awarded to Cape Town, Peking, Rio de Janeiro or Buenos Aires.

The race for 2004 already has some formidable front-runners. Rome, which hosted the 1960 Games, has a £7 billion development pro-

gramme for the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christianity, that will include a new metro to the existing Olympic stadium and to a projected Olympic village.

Italy has a supreme advantage over many countries in that Cori, its national Olympic committee, governs the finance of all sport, receiving more than £400 million per annum from the national lottery, and is promised a further £700 million for new installations.

Rome is regarded as present favourite, but Athens will exert an emotional pull on the IOC's conscience after rejection for the 1996 Games. The Athens bid is led by Gianna Angelopoulos, who is anxious to avoid the previous Greek arrogance that they deserved election by right and which rebounded against them.

"It was fair play, we did not get them, and we wish Atlanta the perfect Games," she said this week. "This is a new bid, a new reality. We are bidding differently. We don't deserve it as a right."

Stockholm, the host of 1912, has an appeal equivalent to Sydney. Its setting is idyllic and the city is regarded as one of the leading candidates, but must convince the IOC that the Swedish population, unenthusiastic in a national poll, truly supports the bid. St Petersburg, across the Bay of Finland, is equally charismatic, and has ambitious plans for a new airport, motorways and stadiums, with a village within walking distance of main events to be staged on the waterfront, but the logistics of accommodation, transport and security must raise doubts.

Cape Town, scenically and representative of the new South Africa, carries powerful political strings and has put Archbishop Tutu on board its committee, but Cape Town will have similar logistical problems to St Petersburg.

If Mrs Bottomley has a spare half-hour, she should take the lift to the tenth floor of the IOC's hotel here, and take a look at the dimension of projects now necessary to be a serious Olympic candidate, on display at 11 hospital-ity suites.



Boginskaya practises on the balance beam in Atlanta yesterday as she completes her preparations for the Games' gymnastics events

Pathetic victims of race against time

I have seen the finest cheekbones of the Olympic Games. What, I thought, again? Impossible. This crone must be 23 if she's a day — but there is no mistaking the Sphinx from Minsk, nor that extraordinary elegance of movement.

This is Svetlana Boginskaya, of Belorussia, and I caught her at the practice session for the women's gymnastics. Boginskaya is, as ever, the only woman taking part. Not a buxom lump of a thing, I grant you, but recognisably a woman and one who adds grace to the routine of virtuosity.

Boginskaya is one of the divas of sport. She has the same compellingly watchable quality as Florence Griffith-Joyner, Katarina Witt and Monica Seles and, revelling in the — more or less — pure aesthetic pleasure of her floor routine, you say "surely this is what the sport is supposed to be like".

Bela Karolyi is the coach, Romanian turned American, who gave the world the child

prodigies of Nadia Comaneci ("little Miss Perfect") and Mary Lou Retton, star of screen and Wheaties box. Taking over the coaching of Boginskaya two years ago, Karolyi said that gymnastics "started going to a dangerous extreme — the gymnastics of super-tiny, super-young, fragile babies ready to break out crying if things did not go well for them".

He and Boginskaya subsequently parted, but brought me to the press conference of the American gymnastics team, starting Karolyi's latest creation. This is Dominique Moceanu, 4ft 6in, a pound over 5st — and 14.

She has already completed, believe it or not, an autobiography, *Dominique Moceanu: An American Champion*, and she has all the other things that gymnastic stardom can give you in Olympic year — celebrity, appearances on magazine covers and in television commercials, stress fractures.

A four-inch stress fracture

SIMON BARNES



Atlanta sketch

of the shin was diagnosed five weeks ago. Three daily 20-minute sessions with a thing called a bone stimulator have got her back on track. "I just have to be strong," she said. Karolyi added approvingly: "She's a tough little kid. She has a high tolerance for pain." So that's all right then.

There is something truly

absurd about sitting in a hall with a crowd of grown men and women and a dozen cameras jostling for position, all of us trying to get an immortal word or two from a troupe of little girls. They've lived all right, these little girls, they've suffered and they know a very great deal about elation and despair. But they're not going to tell us anything about it.

They are extraordinary creatures and they have, every one of them, learnt to fly. It is a poor person whose heart does not leap at a perfect high release from the asymmetric bars. All the same, there is something quite dreadfully wrong here.

A pile of shock-horror evidence of the sport's cruelties has been gathered by Joan Ryan in her book *Little Girls in Pretty Boxes*. Tales of injury, burn-out, eating disorders and the bullying of coaches make up the substance of it.

She also, very neatly, skewers the essential paradox of gymnastics: "To survive in the

sport, they beat back puberty, desperate to stay small and thin, refusing to let their bodies grow up. In this way, the sport perverts the very idea of femininity it holds so dear."

They starve themselves, often in response to their coaches' belittling insults about their bodies. Starving shuts down the menstrual cycle... and thus blocks the onset of puberty. It was a shock to realise that Moceanu's five colleagues on the United States team are all aged 18 and 19. Each would pass for a very young 14.

There are many sports that produce prodigies — Pelé, Tendulkar, Becker. The problem with the enthralling and beautiful sport of gymnastics is that it has turned away from the Boginskayas of life and become a sport in which only prodigies can compete. For every little girl who aims for the heights, gymnastics is a race against time and puberty, a sport with a window of opportunity as narrow as an arrow-slit.

Barrett given honour of carrying Irish flag

FRANCIS BARRETT, the first member of the travelling community to represent Ireland in the Olympic Games, has been chosen to carry the flag in the opening ceremony tomorrow night.

Barrett, 19, a light-weight boxer, lives on a site overlooking Galway on the Atlantic coast and the caravan life is the only one for him.

"I love living in the caravan," he said. "It's very relaxed and really I would never want to live in a house like the settled folk. The council would like us to move into the houses, but this is our way of life and we want to keep it."

The Galway public have united in encouragement for Barrett, who claimed his place in Atlanta with victory in a box-off in the European championships in March.

"When I won on a counthack, my team-mates jumped in the ring and put their arms around me even though they knew I was a traveller," he said. "When I arrived home, I got a civic reception. The local radio station has sponsored me and the AIB Bank set up a fund before I left."

Barrett started boxing at the age of 11 and has stayed at the Olympia Club, where he is trained by Chick Gillan, where he is a little apprehensive. "It's a big honour for me, but I'll probably be more nervous doing that than climbing into the ring," he said. "I feel I've got a good chance of a medal. I'll just give my best and hope for a bit of luck."

Turner's insurrection taken out of context

The BBC sneezed on Tuesday and the British print media woke up with a cold yesterday. All Tuesday, in news bulletins and on Radio 5 Live's *Inside Edge*, the BBC kept plugging *Panorama*, in which Dr Michael Turner would allege that 75 per cent or more of track and field athletes due to compete in the Atlanta Olympics have cheated by using drugs. The papers were full of it yesterday and the BBC must have been congratulating itself on a self-publicity job well done.

It had succeeded in whipping up a storm at the sport's most vulnerable time. There is nothing like an Olympic Games for besmirching athletes through unsubstantiated drugs allegations, and what Turner said, or rather meant to say, was not only without evidence, but also not even a fresh opinion. As Neil Bennett, the BBC's own sports corres-

pondent, said on television yesterday on *Breakfast News Extra*: "I do not think there is anything new in the substance of the allegations that were made in the programme."

When researching on Monday whether *Panorama* had anything new on drugs in athletics, I spoke with Eamonn Matthews, the programme producer, who described it as "a gentle guide for the average viewer". I spoke with Turner, who said that, with regard to his 75 per cent figure in track and field, he was talking only about the power events. "So I am not saying every marathon runner is doing it, every sprinter," he said. "What we are talking about is shot, discus, javelin and maybe sprinting." Slightly more than 50 per cent across the board, he thought.

Turner was unhappy yesterday at what he claimed was the BBC's failure to use his

David Powell, athletics correspondent, on a meaningless drugs 'revelation'

comment within the context it was set. He was referring to power events, he claimed, when he said: "If you are talking about track and field, you are talking about a situation where the percentage may be 75 per cent or above of Olympic athletes in Atlanta will have taken some kind of performance-enhancing drug." His comment was used as the introductory taster to the programme and not referred to again.

Matthews said that it was "absolutely explicit, there was no misunderstanding", that the reference was to track and field as a whole.

Turner does not work in athletics, but in tennis and skiing. The "Olympic team doctor", as the BBC called

him, is a former director of medical services for the British Olympic Association but is "more interested in winter sports than summer sports". He was team doctor at the 1994 Winter Olympics, but never at a summer Games.

While Roger Black went on radio asking for names to be put to the allegations, and Sebastian Coe told the BBC that the figure was "incredulous" (sic), Turner explained to *The Times* that he had arrived at his figures by taking his lead from Prince Alexandre de Merode, the chairman of the International Olympic Committee medical commission.

"A starting point is Prince de Merode, who, a couple of years ago, said that 50 per cent of Olympic athletes were tak-

ing performance-enhancing drugs," Turner said. "In track and field as a whole, I go with Prince de Merode. I have no evidence to the contrary."

How had Turner arrived at his figures? Informed guesswork.

"You start from what you think is a reasonable figure and you say: 'Is Prince de Merode right at 50 per cent? You then say: 'Is it as bad as 100 per cent? You then look at all the research figures, talk to international colleagues and athletes... you then come to a figure where 100 per cent is too much. 50 per cent is probably too low."

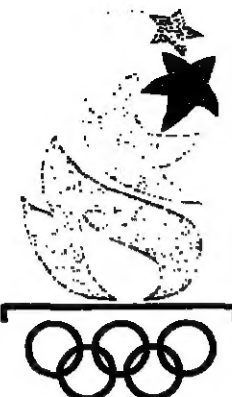
The vagueness of it did not stop one national broadsheet from leading its sports section with a story connecting Turner's "fresh allegations" with "the announcement that two athletes have tested positive". One was Antonella Bevilacqua, an Italian high jumper — the same athlete that the same newspaper reported on June 27 as having failed the same two tests in May. Then, it merited only "round-up" coverage.

Athletics does, of course, have a drugs problem, as do many other sports less willing to tackle the issue, and competitors will be found out at the Olympics. However, the media has jumped the gun.

The genuine news on Tuesday, that Dean Capobianco, an Australian, had tested positive, was the lead sports item on BBC *Breakfast News* — out of proportion to his status outside the world's top 50 sprinters. One presenter wondered whether the fuss was merely an example of journalists "talking up" drugs stories on occasions such as the Olympics. Did he need to ask? The presenter was Rob Bonnet, on the BBC — where the storm in a test tube started.

Donie emerges from depths of despair

A medal-winner
who lost his nerve
tells Andrew
Longmore about
the experience

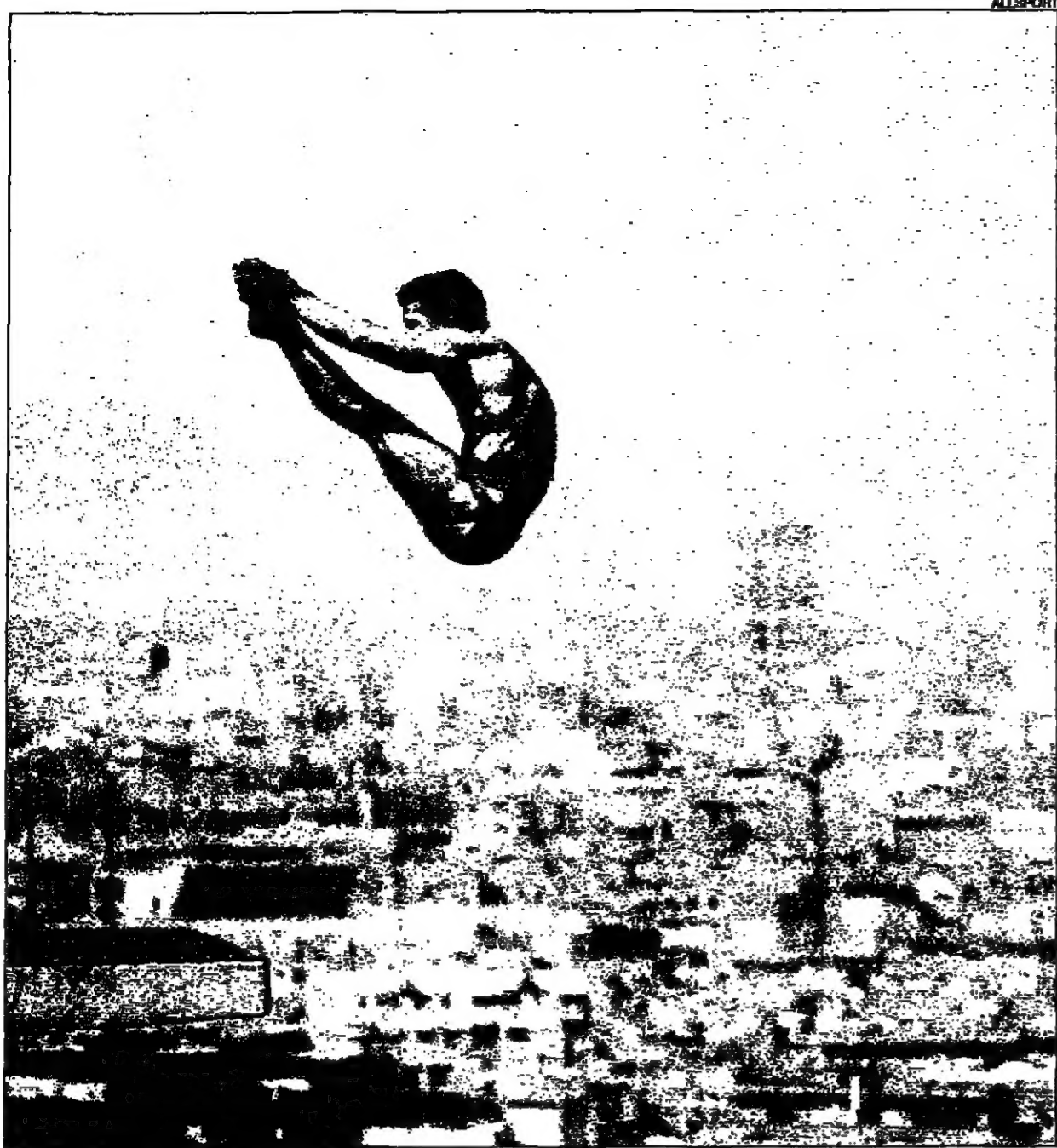


In official language, the dive is known as an armstand cut-through, reverse one-and-a-half. It sounds complicated from the ground but for a diver as accomplished as Scott Donie, it was straightforward enough. Except that 33 feet up, his fingers curled over the end of the platform, his legs balanced above him in a perfect handstand, the Olympic silver medal-winner had lost his nerve.

Donie waited, trying to put his mind to rights, trying to snuff out wild thoughts about adding somersaults and twists to a standard routine, trying to work out why he was there. The crowd who had come to watch one of the most flamboyant of American divers at the Olympic Festival in San Antonio waited below.

"I was thinking, 'What are you gonna do, Scott? What are you gonna do?' It was ridiculous. I was torturing myself," Donie said. "It was an easy dive, but I was so messed up mentally, I could've killed myself. I just had to say 'Forget this. It's over.'"

After maybe 30 seconds — he says it seemed like a lifetime — Donie calmly put his feet back on the ground, turned, climbed down and told the judges he was finished. He has only once dived from the 10-metre platform since 1993, finishing thirteenth in an indoor event two years later. But last month, at the age of 27, Donie won the



Barcelona presents a spectacular backdrop to Donie's Olympic silver medal-winning dive four years ago

United States Olympic springboard trials and, in ten days, he will begin the quest to add to his high-diving silver from Barcelona. The springboard is only 10 feet above the water.

The very public admission of defeat on that day in San Antonio was the most courageous act of Donie's life. He sees that now, even if he did not then. However, there was something much deeper in Donie's psyche than mere loss of nerve. Burn-out is not just

for rich-kid tennis players. Donie had devoted his childhood to reaching the Olympics and when he achieved his aim, he found 15 minutes of fame and two years of depression and self-pity, the hidden legacies of Olympic glory.

"Somehow I expected Barcelona to change my life," he said. "But I was the same guy. I went to the grocery store and no one even recognised me. All I had in my life was diving. I hadn't made plans for anything else." He spent

long hours in Miami bars wondering why he had bothered, but it was not until San Antonio that he began to look for an answer, not until he took a job teaching disabled children that he found that he had been asking the wrong questions all along. "It's not about winning medals or making money," Donie said. "It's about enjoying the moment. These kids make me realise how lucky I am."

Donie has not been isolated in his struggles nor been the

only one to reach Atlanta via the uncharted byways of the mind. Indeed, if medals were awarded for conquest of adversity, the US diving squad would be hot favourites for a team gold. Mark Lenzi, a year older than Donie, suffered similar withdrawal symptoms after winning gold on the three-metre springboard in Barcelona and Mary Ellen Clark, the women's team captain and a bronze medal-winner four years ago, has had to overcome severe bouts

of vertigo to take her place on the ten-metre platform next week in Atlanta.

Appearances on the *Tonight Show* and *Good Morning America* seemed to herald the beginning of the good life and a healthy bank balance for the personable Lenzi. Four years on, he estimates, his golden bonanza totalled about £15,000. It took him two years of retirement, when his weight ballooned and his day was spent in front of an empty glass and a television set to find some sense of perspective. In January, 1995, he returned to competition and a spectacular dive in the final round of the US trials last month confirmed that his nerve was intact and his head right for a return to the Olympics. This time, he says, he will be ready. "People need

'It was an
easy dive,
but I was
so messed up
mentally'

to try not to take it so seriously," he said. "It's just a game, enjoy it."

Vertigo, Clark explained, is not the fear of heights, it is dizziness and she has been suffering from it on and off since 1988, which is a problem if your chosen sport involves twisting, turning and hitting the water head first in a 30mph freefall. The strange thing about Clark's last attack, 18 months ago, was that it began when she was warming up on the one-metre springboard in the hotel pool. She wrote "vertigo" in her diary that night and went to seek medical help.

Acupuncture, spinning chairs, Cranio-sacral therapy, anti-seizure medicines, Clark has tried everything, but cannot be entirely certain whether relief is permanent or temporary. She will know more clearly on July 27 when the 10-metre platform finals begin in the Georgia Tech Aquatic Centre. Perhaps a chorus of the Grateful Dead's *Birdsong*, Scott Donie's anthem in Barcelona, will soothe the nerves. More comforting may be the thought that if all else fails she can simply turn around and walk away.

Smith outmanoeuvres Australia's ironman

FROM CRAIG LORD IN ATLANTA

THE Georgia Tech pool here was awash with aggression yesterday as Kieren Perkins, Australia's troubled ironman with a 1,500 metres freestyle swimming title to defend, locked horns with Graeme Smith, the Briton who could beat him. Perkins appeared rattled when the Anglo-Scott, who has the world's fastest time this year over the longest race in the pool (15min 03.43sec), joined his rival for a spot of pace-making and immediately put Perkins on the lane ropes with his wide-swinging arm technique.

Fixing Smith a steady stare, Perkins rose to waist height in the water and pronounced to his coach, John Carew, in mocking tones that mimicked an uppercrust English accent: "I seem to be having a bit of bother with the British technique, Mr Carew." Carew, reverting to the Australian vernacular, replied: "I can't see how a bloke who swims like that can go so fast."

Perkins, who has not come close to his world record of 14min 41.66sec since setting it at the Commonwealth Games in 1994, has had a troubled passage to Atlanta, failing to make the Australian team for the 400 metres, for which he is also the world record-holder.

Success for Smith would make him the first Briton to win a medal at 1,500 metres since John Hatfield took the silver medal at Stockholm in 1912.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

- FEAK**
(a) A howling term. To wipe the beak of a hawk after feeding. Hence transferred to wipe the beak of anything: a fine pedantic term for blowing one's nose. "I gently pulled her off the pelf, feaked and hooded her."
- GRANGERIZE**
(a) To illustrate (a book) by the addition of prints, engravings, etc., especially such as have been cut [quickly] out of other books. The engraving of James Granger. In 1791 he published a *Biographical History of England*, with blank leaves for the reception of engraved portraits or other pictorial illustrations of the text.
- GENIPAP**
(c) The fruit of *Genipa americana*, a small tree or large shrub, with large glossy leaves and a single white flower, called the genip tree.
- GRUE**
(c) A kind of meal cake made in Cheshire. From the Old French *grue* meal, of *gruel*. "Had Coken seen the Oaten Cakes of the North, the Jamnicks of Lancashire, and the Grues of Cheshire, he would have confessed that Oaten and Oatmeal are meat for fat, fair and strong men."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qh5! Kxh5 (1... Kg7 2 Qg6 and Rh1 - follows) 2 Rh1 Kg8 3 Bb3 mate.

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Hopping, skipping, jumping and stalking

They used to call it the hop, skip and jump, but that sounded like something squeezed between the donkey rules and the tombola at a village fête. It lacked the glitz of Lyceum shorts, multi-million pound sponsorship deals and performance-enhancing drugs.

So they called it the triple jump. But, as with famous Belgians, if you asked 100 people in the street to name a triple jumper, half would lose the power of speech while the others would think you meant a horse. Then came Jonathan Edwards.

As *Leap of Faith* (BBC2) demonstrated last night, Edwards is the perfect English hero. Sir Cliff Richard in spikes, Edwards will march in tomorrow's Olympic opening ceremony with God at his side. The world triple jump champion and world record holder was brought up in a vicarage by Anglican parents. He is old-fash-

ioned by modern Church of England standards, in that he still believes in God and the Old Testament.

His children are called Nathan (Hebrew for "gift") and Samuel ("God hears"). His phlegmatic wife, Alison, a physiotherapist, only mildly complains about the injury paranoia to which athletes are prone: "I should be patient with him but sometimes when he comes in with this little niggles or that, his knee's niggling, and I've got to try to be sympathetic..."

Edwards does not bang on about his beliefs and nor did the programme. Only one of his coaches, who just had to be an American, made a direct link between God's activities and those of men in shorts. Dennis Nobles has that combination of in-your-face belief and mangled syntax which is peculiarly American.

"Us meeting and working together," Nobles said, "I don't think

was a coincidence. There is a creator God and he is instinctively involved with his creation to the point of moving events and ordering events to where his purposes are accomplished."

The purpose of Edwards in Atlanta is to claim the gold medal, 100 years after the first medal at the first modern Olympics in Greece was given to Brendan James Connolly for winning... the hop, skip and jump. He leapt 13.71 metres. Edwards will need somewhere around 18.

His lean body is very obviously a stranger to chemicals and he tests positive only for divine inspiration. As Peter Stanley, his technical coach, put it last night: "He's a good guy who has come good. He's proof that good guys can make it."

Bad guys were the focus in another part of America, with *Inside Story* (BBC1) going to Los

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

Angels to stalk stalkers. The Commons recently blocked a Private Member's Bill which would have made stalking an offence, but California banned it six years ago and Los Angeles has the world's only stalker squad, called the Threat Management Unit.

About 75 per cent of cases involve men stalking women. The most famous concerned a drifter, Robert Hoskins, jailed for ten

years after stalking Madonna (he claimed she was his wife). But at least Madonna can afford protection: lower-profile cases expose women to dreadful risk and are not easy to resolve.

One woman had been followed from New York to Los Angeles by a man who stalked her for 19 years, in spite of injunctions and arrests. The film showed the man being arrested yet again. In his cell, he blandly announced: "I'm really falling out of love with this woman. I'm starting to catch on."

The striking thing about stalkers, apart from their obsessive persistence and disconnection from reality, is a complete absence of guilt. They follow women openly, appear in their homes uninvited, leave long rambling messages on answering machines, write signed letters.

A psychiatrist said that stalking was in part a product of the breakdown of the family. Stalkers

had nobody to relate to beyond their landlords and perhaps their bosses: "There's no reality check."

There is a temptation to see the emphasis on stalking as a fad, some passing fashion. A single statistic shows otherwise: 90 per cent of American women who are murdered by their former partners have first been subjected to stalking.

More heartening than worrying, the second part of Richard Denon's excellent documentary series *School* (BBC2) was called *Take Three Boys*. The focus was Francis Combe School, a comprehensive in Warford and, in particular, three students aged 11: Gary, Scott and Steven.

Francis Combe is a mixed-ability school surrounded by selective establishments, so it gets more than its fair share of difficult students. Happily, it has more

than its share of dedicated teachers. Marlene Broadhead, in charge of learning support, said: "We have to accept all the children that nobody else wants... all of those schools who want to have their league tables looking nice will get shot of those children who are going to bring them down."

Yet the school clearly works. The three boys are friends but what they have in common is not their pure academic ability. As Steven said: "With all three of us, we have two-and-a-half brains altogether."

Gary is the troublemaker one. Steven is an average pupil with interests in computers and guns. Scott is an academic star. Contrary to the standard anti-comprehensive mythology, there is no sign that Gary brings the others down. Perhaps, eventually, they will lift him up. Given the chance.

6.00am Business Breakfast (36470)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Cesfax) (87741)

8.20 Breakfast News Extra (3579234)

9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (8679147)

9.50 Living Dangerously: The Warthog and the Teabag (t) (Cesfax) (s) (7146760)

10.20 FILM: Smokey and the Good Time Outlaws (1978) Two dreamers hope to hit the big time as country and western singers. With Jesse Turner and Dennis Pimple. Directed by Alex Grasshot (22608031)

12.00 News and Weather (Cesfax) (2350147)

12.05pm Small Talk (t) (Cesfax) (s) (2715505)

12.35 Neighbours (Cesfax) (s) (8834383)

1.00 News & Weather (Cesfax) (77128)

1.30 Regional News and Weather (1425383)

1.40 Columbo (t) (s) (3115234)

3.00 Golf: The Open. Steve Ryder introduces coverage of the first day's play from Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf club (s) (6897682)

5.35 Neighbours (Cesfax) (s) (287296)

6.00 News & Weather (Cesfax) (609)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (401)

7.00 Summer Holiday. Sankha Guha heads for The Gambia to find out if the all-year-round African sun and culture can lure tourists from the coast. Kevin Woodford is in Rhodes, and Jenny Hull craves England's waterside on a narrow boat (Cesfax) (s) (8147)

7.30 EastEnders. There's a shock for Tiffany and Bianca's party ends in tears. David gets set to move, but Phil doesn't seem to want to go home (Cesfax) (s) (215)

8.00 Wildlife on One: The Immortal Salamander. David Attenborough narrates a look at the salamander, a survivor from the age of the dinosaurs (t) (Cesfax) (5895)

8.30 Auntie's Sporting Bloomers. Terry Wogan presents a look at the trials and tribulations of sports personalities. He is joined by would-be goalkeeping hero turned comedian, Phil Jupitus, while snooker ace Dennis Taylor reveals the secret of success on the green baize in his "Guide to Glory" (Cesfax) (s) (4302)

9.00 News, Regional News, Weather (Cesfax) (5012)

9.30 Men Behaving Badly: Cardigan. Award winning, lachrymose, Gary leads middle-aged, white, Deborah, still hanging out with her new student friends at university, Staring Martin Clunes, Neil Morrissey, Caroline Quentin and Leslie Ash (Cesfax) (s) (75873)

10.00 The Greatest Show on Earth: It's Atlanta (1/2) (7128)

11.00 FILM: American Gigolo (1980). Starring Richard Gere, Lauren Holly, Hector Elizondo, and John Travolta. Bill Duke directs about a male prostitute whose specialty is purveying sexual pleasure to bored housewives in Beverly Hills in return for large amounts of money. Directed by Paul Schrader (Cesfax) (s) (124079)

12.55am Weather (565635)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode

The numbers on the TV programme listings are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a particular programme.

Video PlusCode is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Floating an Integral (6932147) 6.25 Brain and Behaviour (691654) 6.50 Structural Components (846893) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Cesfax) (4105302) 7.30 Smurfs' Adventures (5973788) 8.20 The Braillys (587031) 8.40 The Record (5847215) 8.55 The Great Expression (6185272) 10.00 Playdays (t) (s) (653288)

10.25 Golf: The Open. Steve Ryder introduces coverage of the 125th Open Championship from Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club (35604031)

3.00pm News and Weather (3342302) 3.05 Westminster (Cesfax) (6239296) 3.55 News and Weather (2880266)

4.00 Cartoon (7436234) 4.05 Little Mouse on the Prairie (2899944) 4.30 Bouncing Back: The Best Bits of Johnny Ball (28) 5.00 Newsround (8713498) 5.10 The Lowdown (t) (Cesfax) (7172654)

5.35 Golf: The Open. Further coverage of the first day's play (86113596)

7.30 Sir Home by Christmas? (1914-1915) (b/w) (Cesfax) (s) (857)

8.00 Rick Stein's Taste of the Sea. Top seafood chef Rick Stein shares his culinary secrets. Mayday is the most important date of the year in Padstow, where the "obby" takes place. The narrow streets, stopping off at each other's houses for a "reviver". Stein creates a lobster salad in hot, spicy Thai sauce for his visitors (t) (Cesfax) (s) (3437)

8.30 One Foot in the Past. Kirsty Wark follows an application for Lottery funds to save the Llangollen Steam Railway. Elan Harwood delves into the world of Victorian insanity at Claybury Asylum in Middlesex; plus a look at Sunderland Football Club's Roker Park. The famous ground closes this year as the club moves to a new ground (s) (2944)

9.00 The Travel Show. Unusual and exotic holidays around the world, including a look at some secret haunts discovered by veteran travellers Eric and Wanda Newby in Istanbul. Meanwhile Tina Ritchie, a Radio 1 traffic reporter, offers a guide to enjoying a motorway journey (s) (3854)

9.30 Golf: The Open. Highlights of the first day's play (510321)

2 Dance: Echo (10.10pm)

10.10 Dance: Dance for the Camera (144498)

10.15 Newsnight (Cesfax) (351925)

11.15 The Shoot: Cambodia. Philip Jones Griffiths talks about his fascination with Cambodia (Cesfax) (s) (976418)

12.00 The Midnight Hour with Trevor Phillips. The political chat show which probes parliamentary issues (55857)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Sir BBC2, 7.30pm

In television terms this programme, derived from the letters pages of *The Times* during 1913 to 1919, comes across as a mixture of the *Rock 'n' Roll Years* and *Points of View*.

Trawling through the archives of the Thunder, Aubrey Singer and Stephen Hearst have patched together historical fact and *The Times*'s readership's reaction to it.

The second part of the series concentrates on the first year of the war from 1914-15. Headlines from *The Times* flash up underneath the archive film and photographs while the judicious use of music sets the tone for the letters. As the war progresses their mood switches from optimistic jingoism to genuine horror at the casualties. Read by such stellar performers as Christopher Lee, Les McKern, Jane Lapotaire, James Villiers and Ali Malik, the language of these letters is eloquent.

Secret History: Konkordski Channel 4, 9.00pm

Espionage, counter-espionage, collusion and cover-ups. Is this yet another piece of *X-Files* fantasy, or does it yet lead us unendingly to the truth about the Cold War?

Secret History, no. The race for superatomic supremacy during the Cold War was no mere flight of fancy. In 1963 Khrushchev ordered his spies to gather information on the Anglo-French Concord project, beginning a year of bluff and double-bluff worthy of any James Bond novel.

The Russians won the race to get their TU-44, or Konkordski, in the air before Concorde by a mere three months in 1968. But their efforts resulted in disaster with the plane crashing, killing all on board and eight French civilians, during the 1973 Paris Air Show.

For the sake of diplomatic relations, the French and Soviet governments colluded to cover up the true cause of the accident.

The Shoot: Cambodia Odyssey BBC2, 11.15pm

Considering photographers are supposed to let their images do their talking, they can be a very volatile bunch. Take Welsh-born Philip Jones Griffiths, for example. Now president of the New York-based Magnum photo agency, Jones Griffiths began his career in the killing fields of Cambodia, sparking off a love affair with the country.

During the course of Richard Traylor Smith's film, which follows him on a trip back to this "visually seductive" land, the man not only manages to give us an insight into his career, but also packs in raucous anecdotes and a running commentary about Cambodia's past, present and possible future. Jones Griffiths' black and white photographs of a maimed and torn people and their country are used in powerful contrast to the Technicolor tangle that is Cambodia today.

The Greatest Show on Earth BBC1, 10.00pm

On the eve of the opening ceremony of the 26th Olympic games a documentary from the team that brought us *The House*, the fly-on-the-wall treasure about Covent Garden Opera House. The director Michael Waldman has opted to concentrate on the people who have made the Atlanta event happen. The team has been allowed access to the International Olympic Committee headquarters in Lausanne, the sporting world's holy of holies. From the archetypal Southern belle whose task it is to ensure the right image of the Games is portrayed to the Atlanta man who has a staggering \$200,000 for renting out his house, it is the wealth and diversity of human endeavour that interests Waldman.

Frances Lass

HTV

6.00am GMTV (1300437)

9.25 The Real Ghostbusters (t) (6672234)

5.50 Hope and Gloria (7148128)

10.20 News headlines (9517470)

10.25 HTV News (5616741)

10.30 Bugs Bunny - All-American Hero (267963)

10.55 FILM: Kim (1984) with Peter O'Toole, Bryan Brown and John Rhys-Davies. Action adventure yarn set in British-ruled India. Part two can be seen tomorrow. Director John Davis (7383352)

12.20 HTV West News (Teletext) (249031)

12.30 News (Teletext) (9880708)

12.35 Shortland Street (s) (8345499) 1.25 Coronation Street (t) (Teletext) (6035505) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (81738944)

2.25 FILM: The Outside Woman (1989) with Sharon Gless, Scott Glen and Max Gail. Conclusion of yesterday's film about a woman who falls in love with a convict and arranges his escape from prison. Directed by Lou Antonio (7938673)

3.20 News headlines (9398922)

3.25 HTV News (9358983)

3.30 The Riddlers (3523760) 3.40 Wizards (1255585) 3.50 Molly's Gang (5334878) 4.05 Antimatter (4758125) 4.20 Black Dragons (5827012) 4.45 The Scoop (5245855)

5.10 A Country Practice (s) (7619663)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (78167)

6.00 Home and Away (t) (Teletext) (s) (835470)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (434854)

7.00 Emmerdale. The Dinghies have designs on Jack's prize cow (Teletext) (s) (3925)

8.00 The Bill. Operation Eagle Eye suffers a serious blow when Carver and Jarvis misjudge the condition of a witness (Teletext) (8073)

Freddie Starr entertains (8.30pm)

8.30 The Freddie Starr Show. Comedy sketch show with the catch comedian (Teletext) (s) (4707)

9.00 Heartbeat. Nick is puzzled that Kate seems less than glad to see one of her relatives here (t) (Teletext) (s) (2437)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) (53963)

10.05 HTV News (562895)

10.40 Unbridled Passions. The pressure begins to mount for top racehorse trainer Philip Hobbs, who hasn't had a winner in two weeks (399234)

11.10 Summer Getaways (Teletext) (s) (559185) 11.40 Bodies of Evidence (584052) 12.35 Carmel Knowledge (7718703) 1.45 Not Fade Away (s) (840277) 2.45 Flux (s) (831529) 3.45 Late & Loud (t) (s) (9781635) 4.00 Sound Bites (2258397) 5.00 Grass Roots (Teletext) (s) (65513)

5.30 Morning News (45722)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:

6.25pm Wales Tonight (565783)

6.55-7.00 Party Political Broadcast by Pled Cymru (706752)

10.40 Spirit of Discovery (399234)

11.10-11.40 Something Strange (93166)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

10.30am Film: Laker Girls (86132499)

12.55pm Emmerdale (9645499)

1.25-1.55 Cross Wits (61681760)

1.55 Home and Away (92852126)

2.25 Sixth Sense (61731031)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (7419437)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7619663)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (56296)

10.30 Westcountry News (583147)

10.45 On the Edge (453166)

11.15 Roadrunner (450079)

11.45 Prisoner Cell Block H (488854)

12.45am Carmel Knowledge (844093)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

10.30 Film: Laker Girls (86132499)

12.55pm Home and Away (9645499)

1.25 Cross Wits (61681760)

1.55 A Country Practice (7419437)

2.20 Sixth Sense (61732780)

2.50-3.20 High Road (937234)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7619663)

6.25 Central News and Weather (850789)

6.55-7.00 Life Line (706789)

10.40 London Bridge (399234)

11.10-11.40 Revelations (959166)

12.40am Carmel Knowledge (8617426)

1.40 Not Fade Away (7046819)

2.40 Flux (7306258)

3.35 The Crime Hour (9674155)

4.30 Jobfinder (55874618)

4.35 Bushell on the Box (2265906)

4.50 Jobfinder (92323635)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: 10.30 People Like Us (86132499) 12.55pm Emmerdale (9645499)

1.25 Home and Away (61681760) 1.55 Shortland Street (7650857) 2.20 Sixth Sense (61732780) 2.50-3.20 Summer Getaways (937234) 5.10 Home and Away (7619663) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (147) 6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (499) 10.40 Film: Used Cars (5840031) 12.40am Phoenix (850987) 6.00 FreeScreen (55513)

Starring: 6.35 Star Street (8470166) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (90078) 8.00 Film: The Return of the Scarlet Pimpernel (5149215) 10.25 Borderline 1 and 2 (7923789) 10.35 Film: The Black Arrow (2931906) 12.00 Australia Wild (58076) 12.30am On the Road to the Islands (86147) 1.00 Slot Methrin (53166) 1.20 Film: Black Dawn (58205) 1.30-1.45 Ricki Lake (8210760) 4.00 Backstage (352) 4.30 The Hole Story (296) 5.00 5 Pump: Superted (2321) 5.30 Countdown (876) 6.00 Newyddion (29955) 6.15 Heno (183418) 7.00 Pobl y Cwm (963147) 7.25 Tawm Y Beirdd (745952) 8.00 Y Ffain Bop (8505) 8.30 Newyddion (59445) 9.00 Er Mwyn Dwr Yr Ysbyd (50895) 9.35 Human Jungle (109437) 10.05 Tour de France (92905) 10.35 The Final Passage (5651505) 12.40am Captain Pedro and the Three Wishes (8615068)

McGann and Grant (10.00)

10.00 FILM: Withnail and I (1985) starring Richard E. Grant, Paul McGann and Richard Griffiths. A cult, black comedy about the misadventures of a pair of out-of-work actors from London on a rain-soaked holiday in the Lake District. With Michael Elphick and Ralph Brown. Directed by Bruce Robinson (2302)

12.00 Adult Ricki (Teletext) (s) (9547074)

12.50am Kids in the Hall. Comedy from Canada (t) (Teletext) (s) (6536161)

1.20 Beavis and Butt-head. Rock video reviews (t) (s) (740906)

1.55 Let the Blood Run Free. Dr Good and Nurse Pam find their dreams have come true (t) (s) (3125154)

2.20 FILM: Chatterbox (1989) starring Michael James and Milan Borch. Drama

THURSDAY JULY 18 1996

Early start gives Faldo chance to make running in quest for Open Championship

Terrors of Lytham tamed by weather

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

JUST imagine it. Golfers from all over the world have travelled to Lytham to compete in the 125th Open Championship over a course they have been indoctrinated to fear. Mind out for the wind, they were told before they left. Avoid the bunkers, they were counselled as they packed their bags. Watch out for the back nine, were words that rang in their heads as they made their way to their airports.

What has happened? There



THE OPEN

has been little wind all week, a sun has beaten down ceaselessly and dried out the course and the rough, which was still wispy in parts after little rainfall during the year, has not grown to consistent thickness.

The result is that the 6,892-yard links, with its 188 bunkers and an inward half that is considered to be so tigerish when played into the prevailing wind, is compliant and at its most benevolent. What the competitors saw as they put the finishing touches to their preparation last night was not what they had expected at all. They must have felt like opera goers who set out for some Wagner and find a light work



Faldo plays an iron shot off the tee during his practice round yesterday. He alarmed some followers by spending much of the time in discussion with his coach. Photograph: Julian Herbert

by Mozart instead. This has become the most open Open on a course that desperately needs a decent wind to turn it into the sort of test its reputation suggests it is. A links golf

course without wind is only half a test, like sitting an exam and knowing half the questions.

"When I played today, some of the guys told me the wind was about three-quarters the strength it could be," Phil Mickelson said on Monday. Since then the wind has just about disappeared completely. "I enjoy links golf," Corey Pavin said. "It's fun to play them because you have to use your imagination. You can run them up, fly them up and the ball is always going to run. Downwind it will always run 70 yards. Even long irons will run 50 yards."

There is an extraordinary amount of support for Severiano Ballesteros, not because it is thought that he can win but because it is

hoped that he can, which is altogether a different matter. He has been having attention to his back from Tom Boers, the man whom Greg Norman and Fred Couples have brought over from America to look after their backs, and the pain, which caused him to pull out of a dinner on Tuesday night and have treatment instead, appeared not to be troubling him.

Wherever you went on the course yesterday there was evidence of this weight of feeling for the Spaniard. "What time is Seve coming through?" "How is Seve doing?" At times it was hard to remember that this was a practice round.

Ballesteros and Sergio Garcia, the 16-year-old European amateur champion, had beat-

ed Stephen Ames and Rob Edwards by the 15th. "Can I give you a cheque?" Ames said to Ballesteros on the 16th tee. "No, no," Ballesteros replied smiling. "I keep my trophies in

In The Times today:
a 24-page colour
guide to the
Open Championship

the bank." Then he pulled hooked not one but two separate iron shots from the 16th tee, perhaps intent on proving that he doesn't always hit it far to the right under a car.

If Ballesteros can summon up the skills that have lain idle for years and produce the victory here that would give him a fourth Open, it will be

one of the most sensational comebacks in golf. The fact is, it will not happen.

The winner is most likely to be one of a handful of men whose reputations and skills have made them among the best in the world and who are playing well at the moment. The best example seems to be Nick Faldo, who celebrates his 39th birthday today, though he caused a few flutters of concern at the way he and David Leadbetter, his coach, were seen so often in earnest discussion as Faldo played late yesterday afternoon. Faldo sometimes took as long as 20 minutes to complete a hole and often hit dozens of bunker shots.

The Masters champion has a nearly-ideal starting time of 7.33am. To be out so early,

before the greens have borne the weight of hundreds of pairs of spiked shoes, is an enormous advantage. Remember how Ballesteros started when he was off so early here in 1988? Birdie, birdie, birdie, birdie, ultimately signing for the 67 that launched him towards his third Open.

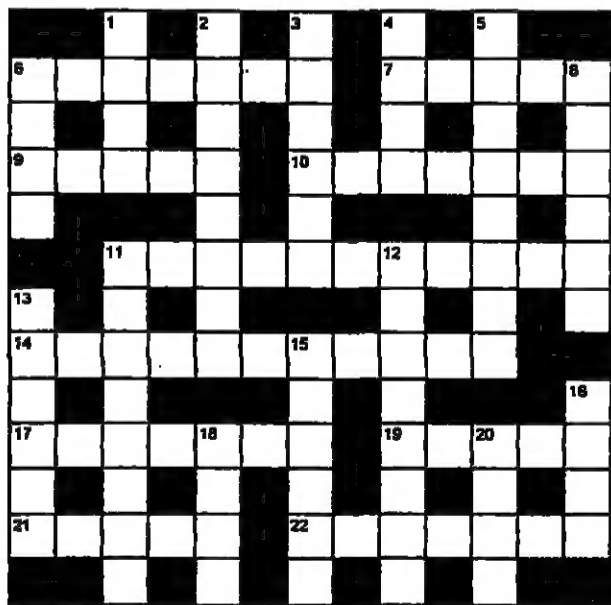
Davis Love's form in major championships has changed so dramatically since the start of 1995 that he is now among the favourites. Second and fourth in the Masters and US Open of 1995, he was seventh and second in the same events this year.

His father played here in 1963 and finished well. "Dad played over here and loved it," Love said. "I enjoy this one more than the other ones. If I

could win one major, this would be the one." Ernie Els is ready to step forward and claim a second major title just as Phil Mickelson is ready to claim a first. Both have the necessary equipment, as does Colin Montgomerie, and it may not be a bad omen that Montgomerie was well off key in his final preparations and rushed to the practice ground with Bill Ferguson, his coach.

Montgomerie has gone into several recent major championships assuring all and sundry that his game was at its peak. A good bit of old fashioned gloom may be just what he needs.

Moody Monty, page 40
Lyle's reminder, page 40
Veteran skills, page 40

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORDNo 837 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS

- 6 Acrobats' har (7)
7 Profit, often filthy (5)
9 Ancient survival (5)
10 Cause amazement (7)
11 Extra cold felt in wind (5,6)
14 Vent one's feelings (3,3,5)
17 Make longer: a period (7)
19 Daniel —, Crusoe author (5)
21 Royal race meeting (5)
22 Islamic caller to prayer (7)

DOWN

- 1 Roman France (4)
2 Cloth worn round neck (8)

3 Remember: summon back (6)

- 4 Stain, esp. on escutcheon (4)
5 Familiarise (8)
6 Period: defining word (4)
8 Put up with (6)
11 Reduced-rate (bargain) (3-5)
12 The Granite City: a 19C PM (8)
13 Largest US state (6)
15 System: plan; diagram (6)
16 Intend; miserly (4)
18 Art gallery; Nahum —, hymn-writer (4)
20 Disconcert: sounds like development stage (4)

PRIZES:

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO No. 836

ACROSS: 1 Kill or cure 7 Embroid 8 Pupil 10 Gallon 11 Lairy 12 Armada 15 Itasca 17 Herod 18 Engaged 21 Rental 22 Long ago 23 Wristwatch
DOWN: 1 Kabul 2 Louie 3 Oblong 4 Capulet 5 Replica 6 Geographer 9 Lay hands on 13 Mariner 14 Diddle 16 Yellow 19 Giant 20 Gnash

Chinese handed drugs ultimatum

FROM CRAIG LORD AND JOHN GOODBODY IN ATLANTA

CHINA, which has produced more positive tests in the past five years than the rest of the swimming world ever has, was given an ultimatum yesterday: stop the drug cheats or the nation will be banished from international competition for at least two years.

On the eve of an Olympic Games competition that is widely expected to be a replay of the world championships in Rome in 1994, when Chinese women won 12 out of 16 events while no Chinese men reached a final, more than 100 swimming nations voted to adopt the toughest sanctions against drug-taking in world sport against the wishes of Fina, the international governing body. After the seven positive steroid tests among Chinese swimmers in late 1994, which took the Chinese total to 19 since 1991, Australia recommended that first steroid offences should be punished with a four-year suspension for the swimmer concerned, second offences should merit a lifetime expulsion and four positive tests

in a rolling 12-month period a suspension of two years for the federation, or nation, concerned. Had the rule existed in 1994, China would not be competing at the Georgia Tech pool in Atlanta.

Fina had urged its members to water down the Australian proposal, first voted on last December but deferred, to a

Simon Barnes in Atlanta 41
Britain bids for future stake 41
Diver back in at deep end 42

minimum of two years for a first steroid offence on the grounds that challenges to the rules in civil courts could fail because they might be deemed to infringe human rights. However, only a handful of the 107 nations voting in Atlanta objected to the more stringent sanctions, which will come into effect in two months' time.

As the issue of drugs continued to dominate the the build-up to the Games,

Yuri Mychkovets, a light-heavyweight (under 83kg) weightlifter, has been dropped from the Russia team. Mychkovets failed a drug test in Moscow before leaving for Atlanta. The Russians declined to identify what type of drug Mychkovets had taken.

American animal rights campaigners yesterday warned international officials, including The Princess Royal, that they could face court action if horses suffered during the three-day event competition, which begins on Sunday. The Humane Society of the United States said that it was prepared to take to court the International Equestrian Federation (FIE), whose president is The Princess Royal, if it failed to protect horses, particularly in the gruelling cross-country stage. The society wants the FIE to cancel the competition in case of severe injury or death, withdraw horses from competition if they fall once and establish guidelines allowing them to withdraw horses which suffer heat or respiratory problems.

Blackburn raise a smile over Cantona

By DAVID MADDOCK

AS THE fax machine in the Old Trafford offices spluttered into life yesterday morning, those who noted its message could barely keep a straight face. As Ken Ramsden, the Manchester United assistant secretary, put it: "There were a few amused smiles around the place after that fax."

The cause of such merriment and incredulity, mixed in equal parts, was a message from Blackburn Rovers. It read: "Blackburn Rovers Football Club would like to table a formal offer of £4 million for Eric Cantona." It was signed by Robert Coar, the Blackburn chairman, who later denied that the fact that United have made three bids for Alan Shearer. Rovers' best

player, was connected to the approach.

Nonetheless, Blackburn have become increasingly annoyed at attempts by their Lancashire rivals to prise Shearer away from Ewood Park and Coar's response was seen as a sarcastic attempt to emphasise his assertion that the England forward is not for sale.

"This is a proper bid, a serious offer, and must be regarded as such," Coar said. "If you don't ask, you don't get and don't forget that few people believed Paul Ince would be allowed to leave United last summer. It has nothing to do with Shearer, but we did take the opportunity to make it clear that the Alan Shearer situation has not changed. He is not for sale."

Coar presented a second defensive front yesterday when he denied there had been a bid by Arsenal for his side's captain, Tim Sherwood. "He will not be speaking to Arsenal," Coar said.



Cantona: staying put

United were less amused at news that Slavia Prague are now asking for £4.2 million for Karel Poborsky, their international midfielder player. The Czech Republic club had agreed a fee of £3.5 million with Maurice Watkins, the United legal director, but a bid from Sheffield Wednesday at the increased level seems to have inspired them to hold out for the new figure.

Neither David Ginola, of Newcastle United, nor Gary McAllister, of Leeds United, appear to be moving anywhere. Rumours linking them to Barcelona and Coventry City, respectively, were dismissed emphatically by the Newcastle assistant manager, Terry McDermott, and McAllister himself yesterday.

Newcastle move, page 7

MORSE



For any organisation considering an Internet or Intranet solution, security is a prime concern. There is now a wide range of products available to protect networks against unauthorised traffic.

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